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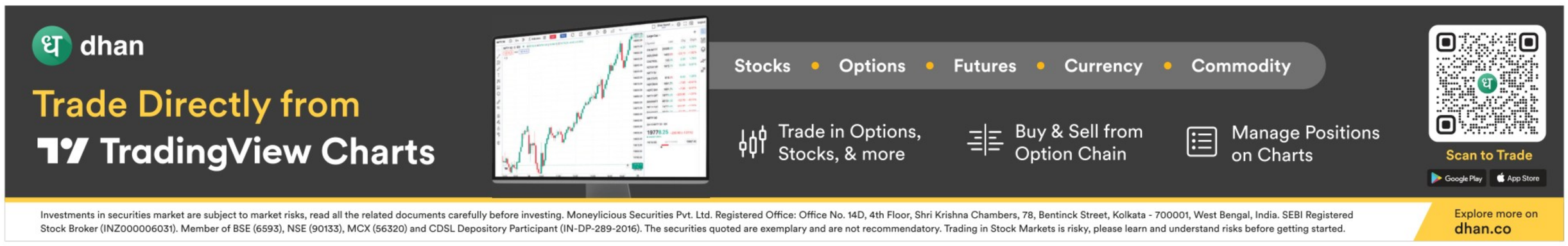


RAJNATH ON POLLS

'BJP not in panic in M.P. and Rajasthan'

NEWS » PAGE 13

DATA POINT

The underdogs' day out in World Cup

The Netherlands' defeat of South Africa was the second biggest upset ever

OPINION » PAGE 11

EYEING A FOURTH WIN

Buoyant India faces the Bangladesh test

SPORT » PAGE 17

Govt. clears bonanza of ₹15,000 cr. for employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Putting more money into government employees' hands amid the festive season and ahead of crucial Assembly elections next month, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a nearly ₹15,000-crore bounty for them, which includes an extra instalment of dearness allowance, representing a 4% hike for employees and pensioners to compensate for inflation.

The additional dearness allowance (DA) for serving employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners will be paid out with effect from July 1, 2023, and take the overall payouts to 46% of the basic pay or pension amounts.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MSP HIKED FOR RABI CROPS
» PAGE 16

Israel and Hamas trade blame over hospital blast

Gaza struggles to save survivors as rage grows in West Asia; Biden arrives in Tel Aviv, backs Israel's claim that rocket fired by Palestinian militants led to explosion; strikes resume from both sides

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP

Doctors hamstrung by dwindling medical supplies rushed on Wednesday to save people badly wounded in a massive blast at a Gaza City hospital the day before, performing surgery – often without anaesthesia – on patients lying on floors, as Israel kept up its attacks on the besieged territory.

The Hamas militant group blamed Israel for the massive blast at the al-Ahli Hospital – saying nearly 500 died – while Israel blamed a rocket fired by other Palestinian militants.

Public outrage over the hospital carnage spread through West Asia as U.S. President Joe Biden landed in Israel in hopes of preventing a wider conflict in the region.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Biden embraced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – and expressed concern for the suffering of Gaza's civilians.

He later said the hospital blast appeared not to be Israel's fault. "Based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you," he told Mr. Netanyahu in remarks in front of the media.

Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel resumed shortly before Mr. Biden's arrival, after a 12-hour lull. Israeli strikes on Gaza also continued on Wednesday, including on cities in south Gaza that Israel had described as "safe zones" for Palestinian civilians.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 15

All that remains: People inspect the rubble of a destroyed building in southern Gaza on Wednesday. AFP

Modi expresses outrage at attack

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed outrage at the hospital bombing in Gaza Strip. "...Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible," he posted on X. » PAGE 12

NEARBY

BDA to soon start digitising all records

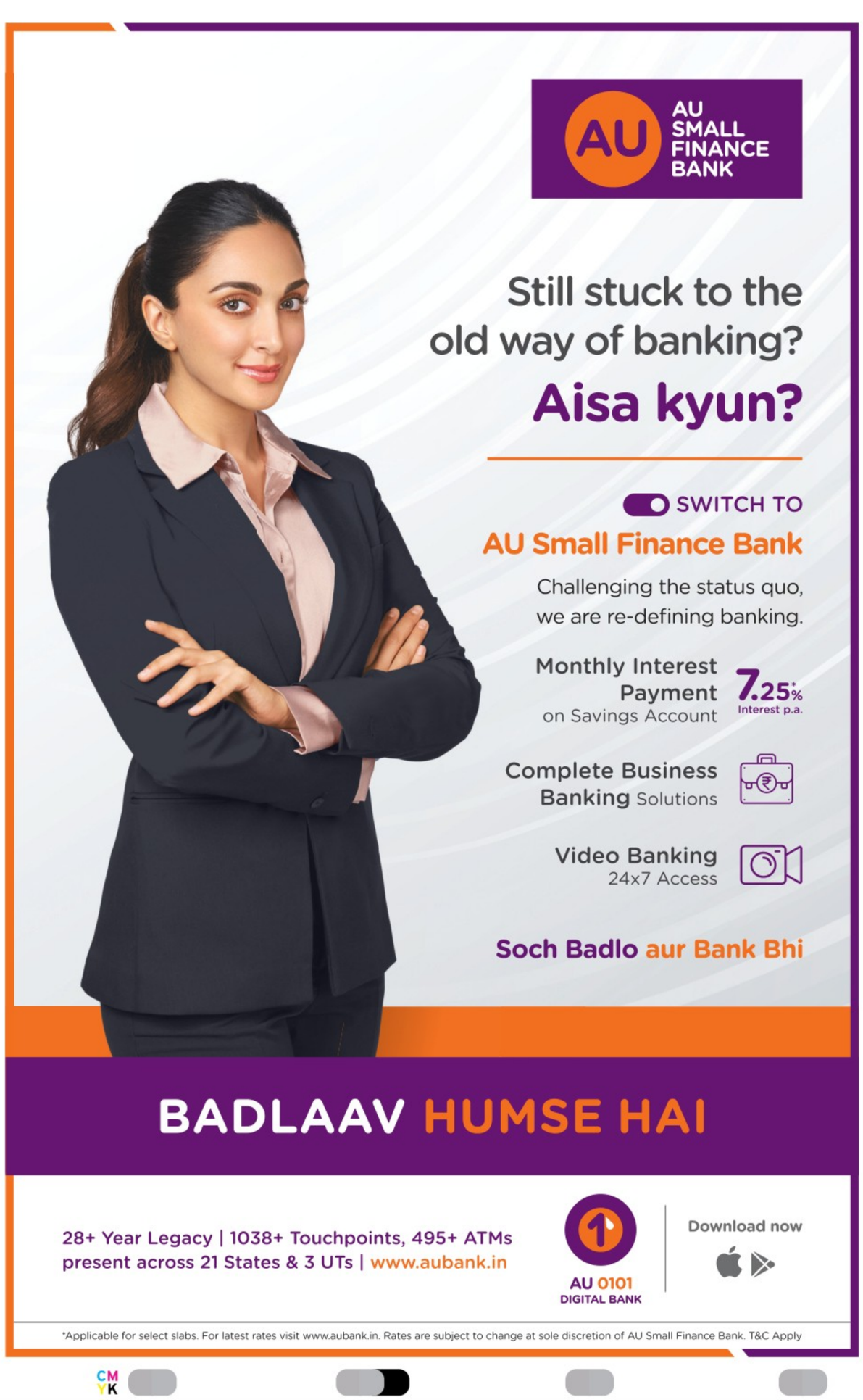
BENGALURU
With an aim to make the office more people-friendly, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will soon start the digitisation of all records.

» PAGE 3

HSRPs installed on 1.75 lakh vehicles so far

BENGALURU
The implementation of the Transport Department's directive to install HSRPs on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019 is progressing slowly, with them being installed on only 1.75 lakh vehicles so far.

» PAGE 5



With statement win over South Africa, the Dutch show they are here to stay

The Netherlands is proving that it has the game to surprise much stronger rivals in the ODI format; after playing in the 50-over World Cups in 1996, 2003, 2007 and 2011, the side arrived in India looking to ruffle a few feathers

R.V. MOORTHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar

It wasn't just the result. It was stunning enough, yes.

It wasn't just the margin, either. It was impressive enough, too.

But it was the manner in which the Netherlands beat South Africa at Dharamshala on Tuesday to author one of cricket World Cup's biggest upsets of all time. The Dutchmen out-played and out-thought the Proteas.

Look at the way the inspirational Netherlands captain Scott Edwards – after playing probably the innings of his life – marshalled his bowlers throughout the South African innings. Especially the way he used the spinners inside the first PowerPlay to good effect, making them bowl seven of the first eight overs. Or the way he moved the fielder squarer when Rassie van der Dussen came on strike and obliged, reverse-sweeping a catch.

Edwards got a fair bit of assistance, as the sheet of paper Max O'Dowd pulled out at the fall of each wicket suggested. Planning minutely – which may not be that difficult given the data available for the think tank in modern day cricket – is one thing, but the execution part is quite another.

South Africa surely wouldn't have planned to give away 32 extras in 43 overs (the rain shaved off seven). In contrast, the Dutchmen gave away only eight; they couldn't have afforded to be more generous, as they didn't have in their bowling line-up the pedigree and experience of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi or Keshav Maharaj. What they had in plenty was discipline and an urge to prove that they belonged.

When they batted, they showed they had the resilience to overcome the top- and middle-order collapses: they had been reduced to 112 for six with only 16 overs remaining. Led by the captain's unbeaten 69-ball 78, they knocked off 104 in the last nine overs. Then their bowlers destroyed the formidable South African batting – perhaps as strong as any in the competition - within the first 12 overs, at the end of which the score read 46 for four. Seven overs later, when Heinrich Klaasen fell, South African hopes must have begun to fade.

AFP

This wasn't the first major victory for the Flying Dutchmen in an ODI this year. It was, in fact, the third within the last four months.

It was because of those previous wins that they could board the plane to India. In two memorable games at the World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, they defeated the West Indies and Scotland.

Logan van Beek was the architect of the win against the former World champion. The West Indies scored 374 for six and the Netherlands responded with 374 for nine, with van Beek providing late fireworks (28 off 14) and getting out on the last ball.

But his request for redemption was granted by coach Ryan Cook. In the Super Over, van Beek hammered his good friend Jason Holder for 30, hitting every ball for a boundary, and then took both the West Indies wickets with his seam bowling.

That victory, the articulate van Beek told this correspondent on a rainy afternoon in Thiruvananthapuram early this month, meant a lot to the team. "It gave us the belief that we could go against the best in the world and we could win those key moments," he said. "To take the match to the Super Over, we had to chase a big total. You have got to have that full belief, that full confidence to go out there and do it. I think that's the environment that we have created right now... The guys that come in can feel that energy."

van Beek was born in New Zealand, for which he played in the Under-19 World Cup. In fact, the last time he toured India, a year ago, he was playing for New Zealand-A in a Test and ODI series.

Like him there are others in the team who were born or grew up in other countries. Roelof van der Merwe, who struck a 19-ball 29 down the order and then removed Temba Bavuma and van der Dussen with his left-arm spin, had played for South Africa till 2010.

Edwards was born in Tonga and grew up in Australia, while Teja Nidamanuru, who scored a superb 111 off just 76 balls in that great chase against the West Indies in the Qualifier, and Vikramjit Singh were born in India. O'Dowd's roots are in New Zealand. Vikramjit, though, learnt his cricket in the Netherlands, as did Aryan Dutt, another player of Indian origin.

"The diversity of the team is something that we celebrate every day," Cook, the coach from a prominent cricket family of South Africa, told *The Hindu* after a training session. "It is something that we really pride ourselves on, bringing that diverse group of people together."

The team also boasts talented cricketers of Dutch origin such as Bas de Leede, the man who played a key role in the crucial Super Six game against Scotland in the Qualifier. It was, in fact, one of the finest all-round performances ever in ODI cricket.

de Leede, whose father Tim played in three World Cups, took five for 52 with his seam bowling and then smashed 123 off 92 balls to lead his team's successful chase, which had to be completed inside 44 overs to overtake Scotland on net run-rate and thus qualify for the World Cup. He became only the fourth male cricketer in history to score a hundred and take five wickets in an ODI.

His heroics thus helped the Dutch return to the World Cup for the first time since 2011. The coach has played a significant role in it.

"It has been amazing to work with the guys," Cook said. "They have been just fantastic in terms of their work rate. Their work ethic is incredible. They want to learn. They want to grow. They want to improve."

They are improving, no doubt. The performance at Dharamshala is ample proof. They had shocked South Africa in the T20 World Cup at Adelaide last November.

In the 2014 edition of the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh, they had advanced to the Super 10, in which they scored a famous win against England. They dismissed England for 88 after making 133 for five. They have shown this year that they have the game to surprise their much stronger rivals in the ODI format. After playing in the ODI World Cups in 1996, 2003, 2007 and 2011, the side arrived in India looking to ruffle a few feathers, with the captain eyeing nothing less than a semifinal finish.

That may sound too ambitious, but then, you have to aim for the moon, if you want to hit a star. Shows like the one against South Africa could help cricket gain attention back home in the Netherlands, where the game has to compete with more popular sports like football and hockey.

"Hopefully the World Cup will provide the aspiration to people to make a career out of cricket," Cook said. "So that's what we are hoping for. I think that will take some time. But this is really a stepping stone in that direction."

It is.

THE GIST

- Before this game, Netherlands had never beaten a Test-playing nation in ODI World Cups. It had also never beaten South Africa ever in ODIs
- This is not the first time the Dutch proved to be the thorn in the side for the Proteas in a World Cup. In the T20I 2022 edition, Colin Ackermann starred with bat and ball to hand the Netherlands a famous 13-run win
- More recently, in two memorable games during the World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, Netherlands defeated the West Indies and Scotland to get on the flight to India

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Knee osteoarthritis is a degenerative condition, where the cartilage present in the knee joint undergoes degeneration and gets torn. The patient initially has pain and stiffness in the knee joint and progressively faces other symptoms like redness, swelling and increase in pain depending on the grade of Osteoarthritis.

Who are prone to develop Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative condition which all individuals have to go through but symptoms vary from person to person. Individuals who are obese, athletes and those with previous knee injuries are susceptible to early osteoarthritis and females are more prone as compared to males.

How can one avoid aggravating knee pain?

Avoiding prolonged sitting and standing, avoid climbing stairs, avoid squatting and sitting on the floor can prevent exacerbation of pre-existing knee pain. Routine walking, regular exercises to strengthen the thigh muscles, weight reduction, and proper sitting habits can immensely help prevent acute knee pain.

What is the cartilage and what is its role in knee pain and knee Osteoarthritis?

Cartilages are soft tissues present in the knee joint between two bones - the thigh bone femur and the leg bone Tibia. The cartilage helps to reduce friction between two bones and acts as a cushion in the joint. It also helps to support our weight when we run, bend and stretch and also holds bones together in place. Patients with damaged cartilage in a joint (articular cartilage damage) experience inflammation – the area

swells, becomes warmer than other parts of the body, and is tender, sore, and painful. As the damage progresses, the affected limb will not move freely, with stiffness and range limitation. As the knee joint is a weight bearing joint of the body, with age there is wear and tear in this articular cartilage, eventually causing all symptoms of osteoarthritis. Protecting your knee cartilage is the best way to prevent knee pain . Identifying the extent of damage in your articular cartilage is best done with the help of dynamic ultrasound scanning by an expert. On the extent of cartilage damage , the treatment protocol is planned.

What are the conventional treatment options for knee osteoarthritis?

Initially doctors advise pain killers and physiotherapy, which provide temporary relief of symptoms. As damage continues, the patient is advised to undergo knee replacement surgery.

Plasma Therapy- The latest buzz worldwide is the use of plasma therapy for treating corona patients. However, plasma therapy also known as Platelet Rich Plasma therapy has multiple other uses. In regenerative medicine it helps regenerate damaged or degenerated body tissue, showing maximum efficacy in regenerating knee joint cartilages.

Regenerative Therapy- An Innovative Approach to Pain Relief

Regenerative medicine is a new emerging branch which deals with repairing and regenerating worn-out tissues using one's own blood. Every tissue of the body tends to degenerate and get damaged with aging, excessive use, or injury, resulting in pain and discomfort. Regeneration therapy facilitates regeneration of worn-out tissues, ensuring pain relief.

How does regeneration therapy work?

Human blood has many growth factors present in platelets. When injected into the torn tissue, they help repair it and regenerate new healthy tissue.

How is the procedure done?

The simple day care procedure involves withdrawing the patient's blood (15-20 ml) using a thin needle. The blood is transferred into a special container called cartridge, and placed in a machine for centrifugation, to separate blood into two different layers. The lower layer consists of red blood cells and the top layer is plasma. This plasma is subjected to another round of spin, to separate 2ml of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) from the rest of the plasma. PRP is rich in growth factors. The entire process of preparing PRP takes 20-30 minutes.

After the PRP is prepared, the patient is taken into the operation theatre. The torn area of the body is identified under ultrasound or fluoroscopic machine and the PRP containing growth factors is injected into the damaged area. This PRP creates a small amount of inflammation in the injected area, triggering the healing cascade and the release of several growth factors and enzymes. As a result, collagen will form, thus repairing and regenerating the tissue.

Advantages of PRP Therapy

- Non-surgical technique
- Daycare procedure
- Fast pain relief
- No Bed Rest
- Go back to work on the same day
- A permanent solution to the problem
- No side effects or complications

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- ☐ The centre follows the exact protocol and provides treatment according to the individual's need to ensure good outcome
- ☐ Has treated over 3000 knee pain patients with regenerative therapy
- ☐ Epione centre offers excellent treatment for knee pain in a safe manner, while assuring you of a COVID free atmosphere

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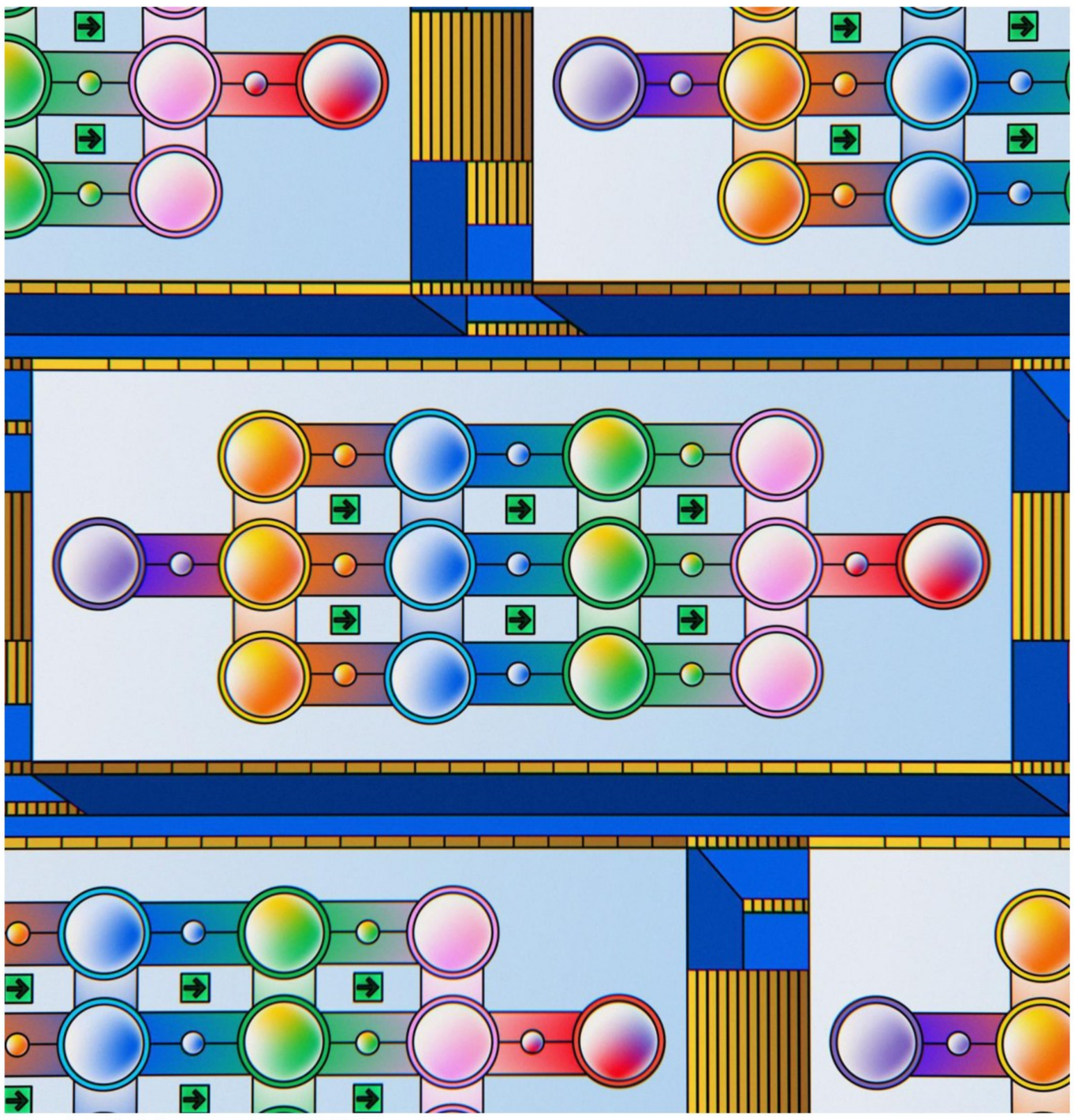
How quantum algorithms solve problems that classical computers can't

A quantum algorithm is a series of instructions that uses quantum gates to manipulate data; some problems may need fewer steps on the part of a quantum algorithm than the steps required by classical algorithms, enabling quantum computers to solve the problems faster than classical devices

S. Srinivasan

We often hear that quantum computers efficiently solve problems that are very difficult to solve with a classical computer. But even if the hardware is available to build a quantum computer, exploiting its quantum features requires us to write smart algorithms.

An algorithm is a sequence of logically connected mathematical steps that solve a problem. For example, an algorithm to add three numbers can have two steps: add the first two numbers in the first step and the result to the third number in the second step.



Representative illustration. GOOGLE DEEPMIND/UNSPLASH

Quantum v. classical algorithms

A more involved example of an algorithm is the search for the largest number in a finite list of numbers.

An algorithm can start by assuming that the first number on the list is the largest. Next, it can compare this number with the second number on the list. If the second number is larger than or equal to the first number, the second number is now deemed to be the largest. Otherwise, the first number remains the largest at this stage. The algorithm then moves to the third number on the list - and so on until it has finished comparing all the numbers on the list. The number that is the largest as of the final step will be the answer.

A *quantum algorithm* is also a series of steps, but its implementation requires *quantum gates*. Some problems may need fewer steps on the part of a quantum algorithm than the number of steps required by a classical algorithm. That is, the quantum algorithm can speed up the computation.

One factor that controls this speed-up is the possibility of superposition of the states of quantum bits, or qubits, that encode information. Whereas a classical computer uses semiconductor-based gadgets as bits to encode information, quantum computers use qubits. In both cases, the bit or the qubit can have two distinct states, 0 *or* 1; but qubits have the additional ability to be partly 0 *and* partly 1 at the same time.

Shor's algorithm

One of the earliest quantum algorithms is the factorisation algorithm developed by Peter Shor. It requires fewer steps to factorise a number than one that operates with classical principles.

Shor's algorithm identifies the factors of a given integer. For example, 2 is a factor of 20 (since 2 divides 20 without a remainder). Similarly, 4, 5, and 10 are also factors of 20. However, identifying all the factors requires a greater and greater number of steps if the number becomes larger.

The efficiency of an algorithm is related to the number of steps required as the size of the input increases. An algorithm is more efficient if it requires fewer steps (and thus less time). From this perspective, Shor's algorithm is far more efficient than any known classical algorithm for factorisation.

Technically, in Shor's algorithm, the number of steps increases as a polynomial in the size (more precisely, the logarithm of the size) of the input whereas it is a superpolynomial for the best classical algorithm known today.

To understand the difference, compare multiplying 10 with itself thrice (i.e. 10^3) and multiplying 3 ten times (i.e. 3^10). The former is a polynomial in 10 whereas the latter is a superpolynomial in 10. A polynomial increase is always lower than a superpolynomial increase for a sufficiently large input size. Thus, classical factorisation algorithms are far less efficient compared to Shor's algorithm, which is a quantum algorithm.

Modern cryptography - which is used to secure user accounts on the internet, for example - depends on the fact that there are no efficient classical algorithms that can factorise large integers.

This is the source of the claim that the availability of quantum computers (with an adequate number of qubits) will challenge the safety of classical cryptography.

Quantum search algorithm

Another popular quantum algorithm is the quantum search algorithm developed by Lov Grover. It looks for a numerical pattern in a large list of numbers. A deterministic classical algorithm requires almost half the number of steps as there are patterns in the list. That is, to identify a pattern from a list of one-million patterns, the classical approach may need half a million steps.

The quantum algorithm will require only a thousand steps, however. In fact, for every 100x increase in the list's size, Grover's algorithm will need only 10x more steps. This is the kind of speed-up this quantum algorithm achieves.

Yet another scheme that showcases the exponential speed-up is the Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm. Imagine a set containing two-digit numbers whose digits are either 0 or 1; let's call this Set A: 00, 01, 10, and 11. For each number from Set A, associate a number from another set, Set B, containing 0 and 1 as the only members.

Next, consider two categories of relation between the two sets. A relation is *constant* if all the members of the first set are associated with only 0 or only 1. A relation is *balanced* if two of the numbers from the first set are associated with 0 and the other two with 1.

Say the output is 0. A classical computer will require three steps at most to determine if the mapping is constant or balanced. (Can you figure out what they are?)

But a quantum computer can figure it out with only one computation. This is thanks to superposition - the ability of the value of a qubit to be partly 0 and partly 1 at the same time.

As this author wrote previously, "If a qubit is in a superposition, then measuring the qubit will cause it to collapse to one of the two states [*either* 0 *or* 1]. However, we can only predict the probability that it will collapse to one state."

When the inputs are in superposition, the output will be as well, and in a way that corresponds to the states in the input superposition. The output will also have a sign - positive or negative - depending on whether the association is balanced or constant.

So the Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm can determine the mapping with one computation independent of the size of the input.

We just need to make sure there are enough qubits available to represent the number of digits in the input. (Of course, this requirement would apply to bits as well).

Wait for reliable devices

Scientists already know of more quantum algorithms that can solve problems in optimisation, drug design, and pattern search, among other fields more efficiently.

When reliable, large-scale devices become available, quantum computing will help address many otherwise intractable problems as well.

Research in quantum algorithms is highly interdisciplinary, involving computer science, mathematics, and physics. The field is also still evolving, and there are plenty of opportunities to make significant contributions.

(S. Srinivasan is a professor of physics at Krea University.)

An AI-assisted programme was able to pick out bird calls. ISTOCKPHOTO

Scientists turn an AI ear to the wild

Agence France-Presse

A reedy pipe and a high-pitched trill duet against the backdrop of a low-pitched insect drone. Their symphony is the sound of a forest, and is monitored by scientists to gauge biodiversity.

The recording from the forest in Ecuador is part of new research looking at how artificial intelligence (AI) could track animal life in recovering habitats.

When scientists want to measure reforestation, they can survey large tracts of land with tools like satellite and lidar.

But determining how fast and abundantly wildlife is returning to an area presents a more difficult challenge - sometimes requiring an expert to sift through sound recordings and pick out animal calls.

Jorg Muller, a professor and field ornithologist at University of Wurzburg Biocenter, said he "saw the gap that we need, particularly in the tropics, better methods ... to improve conservation actions," he said.

While the library of available sounds to train the AI model meant it could only identify a quarter of the bird calls experts could, it was still able to correctly gauge biodiversity levels in each location

He turned to bioacoustics, which uses sound to learn more about animal life and habitats.

It is a long-standing research tool, but more recently is being paired with computer learning to process large amounts of data more quickly.

Muller and his team recorded audio at sites in Ecuador's Choco region ranging from recently abandoned cacao plantations and pastures, to agricultural land recovering from use, to old-growth forests.

They first had experts listen to the recordings and pick out birds, mammals and amphibians.

Then, they carried out an acoustic index analysis, which gives a measure of biodiversity based on broad metrics from a soundscape, like volume and frequency of noises.

Finally, they ran two weeks of recordings through an AI-assisted computer programme trained to distinguish 75 bird calls.

The programme was able to pick out the calls on which it was trained in a consistent way, but could it correctly identify the relative biodiversity of each location?

To check this, the team used two baselines: one from the experts who listened to the audio recordings, and a second based on insect samples from each location, which offer a proxy for biodiversity.

While the library of available sounds to train the AI model meant it could only identify a quarter of the bird calls the experts could, it was still able to correctly gauge biodiversity levels in each location, the study paper said.

"Our results show that soundscape analysis is a powerful tool to monitor the recovery of faunal communities in hyperdiverse tropical forest," the paper, published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications, added.

There are still shortcomings, including a paucity of animal sounds on which to train AI models. The approach can also only capture species that announce their presence.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

What're the odds you can answer all the questions?

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION #1

Name the English reverend and statistician who, in the 18th century, developed a way to calculate the probability of an event happening based on prior knowledge that might affect the event (i.e. conditional probability).

QUESTION #2

If the same activity is performed a large number of times, the average outcome – i.e. the average of all the outcomes – should move closer and closer to the expected value. This is known as the law of _____ _____. This is why, for example, phase III clinical trials for a vaccine have such a large number of participants. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION #3

Name the Japanese-American mathematician who described the concept of a random walk – which has applications in several areas of science, as well as economics and sociology – thus: "A drunk man will find his way home, but a drunk bird may get lost forever."

QUESTION #4

Say a model describes a series of events, one happening after the other, such that each event occurs with a probability that depends only on the outcome of the previous event. What is the general name for such models (based on the Russian mathematician who invented it)?

QUESTION #5

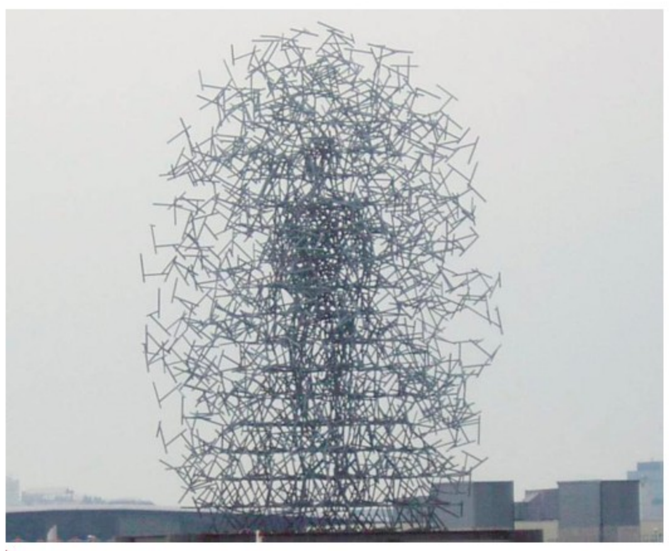
What are the following algorithms designed to do: Rule 30, Blum Blum Shub, Mersenne Twister, Xoroshiro128+?

Answers to October 17 quiz:

1. Name of marine mammals with hard covering – **Ans: Echinoderms**
2. Cartilage in the spine involved in height gain in space – **Ans: Intervertebral disc; without gravity, the disc decompresses**
3. Condition resulting from CSF building – **Ans: Hydrocephalus**
4. Condition attributed to "beach chair" position – **Ans: Coccygeal pressure ulcer**
5. Hollow portions on sauropod vertebrae – **Ans: Pleurocoels**

Visual: **Three-toed sloth**

First contact: Saket Raj | Mohammed Anshad E.K. | Kamuju Ridhi Trailokya



Name the sculptor who created this installation, in London, with a design created by a computer simulating a random walk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

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BDA to soon start digitising all records

This is with an aim to make the office more people-friendly

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

BDA Commissioner N. Jayaram, who has directed officials to start the work, said that documents will be scanned and uploaded to the system. FILE PHOTO

With an aim to make the office more people-friendly, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will soon start the digitisation of all records. It will digitise land acquisition records, civic amenity (CA) sites, allotment of sites, khatas, land records, and other documents.

BDA Commissioner N. Jayaram, who has directed officials to start the work, told *The Hindu* that documents will be scanned and uploaded to the system. This will help the public, especially the allottees of BDA sites.

At present, those people whose sites were acquired for other projects under the BDA are struggling to get alternative sites. For instance, if a person comes to the office requesting details about an alternative site, the officer in charge has to search for the file from the shelves. This is a tedious and time-consuming task. If the files are digitised, they can be found in minutes. In addition, people usually go to the BDA for securing or transfer of khata, and this too is taking time to process. While the digitisation process is yet to start, Mr. Jayaram has directed officials to issue khata in three days and transfer khata in 24 hours.

Another issue plaguing the BDA is sale deeds. The sale deed is usually granted 10 years after the plot is allotted, provided he/she has constructed a house. In some cases, people fail to build houses within the stipulated time, and they have pay a penalty to get a fresh sale deed.

Digitisation will help such cases. In totality, this will fast-track the system in the BDA. "Essentially, all the documents in the BDA will be made available online," informed Mr. Jayaram

BBMP issues work orders to digitise documents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka High Court has directed the BBMP to digitise its records, the civic body has already issued work orders to scan the documents and put them online.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, talking to *The Hindu*, said: "We have already begun the process of digitisation and the same will be informed to the court. On the other hand, under the Namma Swattu programme, property documents will delivered to the owners on their mobile phones."

Bengaluru-bound flight forced to return to Singapore airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru-bound flight from Singapore on Wednesday was forced to return to the point of origin shortly after take-off, as the full luggage was not offloaded from the aircraft at the Changi airport in Singapore.

IndiGo flight 6E 1006 had to return to the Changi airport as luggage from the previous flight (Bengaluru-Singapore) was not fully offloaded.

Arvin Sahni posted on X (previously Twitter) about this incident expressing disappointment. "@indigo congratulations on achieving the impossible... Singapore Bengaluru flight at 5 40 am made to turn back coz you guys forgot to offload luggage from incoming flight. @IndiGo6E standard reply of 5 min / 30 min more when asked for updates. This is not how international operations are run. Absolutely disappointed," @arvinsahni posted on X.

IndiGo confirmed the incident and stated that there was a baggage error on the part of the service partners at the Singapore airport.

"We acknowledge the baggage error on the part of our service partners at Singapore airport with respect to flight 6E 1006 operating from Singapore to Bengaluru due to which the flight returned to origin. The passengers were kept informed of the delay and served refreshments. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers," IndiGo said in a statement.

Traffic police help reduce one black spot on NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 500-metre stretch on NICE Road near Purvankara Apartments in Talaghattapura witnessed nine fatal accidents, killing 11 people and injuring nine others, in the last three years.

The police recorded this stretch as a black spot among the 60 recorded in and around the city, and conducted a scientific study and roped in NICE management to rectify the particular stretch.

The stretch was inaugurated with rectifications on Wednesday.

Work was taken up wherein around 4 metres of the road were elevated to make it more visible.

The road was like a valley, creating poor visibility to motorists. Owing to this, speeding vehicles would lose control, and it would lead to accidents, a senior police officer, who was part of the inspection team, said.

The police inspecting an accident spot on NICE Road in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Apart from the elevation, beam guards on either side of the road, high-mask beams, CCTV cameras, speedometers, and solar lights have been installed on the stretch.

Work on the remaining 59 black spots are at various stages, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), who is supervising the project, said.

Man accused of robbing jewellery shop caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Byadarahalli police have caught one of the accused who, along with two of his associates, robbed a jewellery shop after opening fire at the shop owner recently.

The accused, Hussain, was recently caught at the airport, before he boarded a flight to Hyderabad with part of the stolen gold valuables.

S. Girish, DCP, West Division, said the accused, along with his associates Sikandar and Vikas, are from Rajasthan. They met Shiva, a habitual offender from the city, in Hyderabad and hatched a plan to steal valuables. Shiva, who was familiar with Vinayaka Jewellers situated on Pipeline Road in Byadarahalli, gave them the details. The accused attacked Manoj Lohar, 30, and fired at him when he resisted the robbery.

The accused, soon after escaping with the booty, shared it and dispersed in different directions.

The police zeroed in on Hussain at the airport and recovered 50% of the gold valuables from him. Efforts are on to nab the remaining accused.

LIVER CANCER
LIVER CIRRHOSIS
AYURVEDIC
NATURECURE
TREATMENT
GIVE MISS CALL
Note: Only For Liver Cancer
7835032633

Cricket World Cup: Namma Metro to issue paper tickets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During the cricket World Cup matches in Bengaluru, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will provide ₹50 return-journey paper tickets from Cubbon Park or M.G. Road stations to all other metro stations.

Match days

In a release, BMRCL stated that the paper tickets will be issued on match days – October 20, 26, November 4, 9, and 12, a total of five days.

The tickets will be made available for sale in all metro stations on these days from 7 a.m. onwards.

The tickets are valid for single journeys originating at Cubbon Park and M.G. Road stations to any other metro station only on the same day of issue from 4 p.m. onwards, a release stated.

BMRCL has also arranged QR code tickets at nominal rates with a discount of 5%, purchased on the day of the match and valid for the whole day.

Inauguration of footbridge at Nagasandra metro station enhances access to IKEA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The footbridge that was inaugurated at the Nagasandra metro station on Wednesday.

The much-awaited pedestrian bridge at the Nagasandra metro entrance, providing a direct link to the IKEA store, was finally inaugurated for public use on Wednesday.

The construction of the bridge commenced this April and was completed in six months.

"The foot overbridge will ensure safety and ease of use for all customers who will be visiting IKEA Nagasandra. About one-third of visitors to IKEA Nagasandra commute by metro and the foot overbridge will ease the commute between the Nagasandra station and the IKEA store. It will facilitate easy access for shoppers and visitors. The bridge will also provide an easier transportation option during peak traffic hours and unsuitable weather conditions," IKEA said in a statement.

A.S. Shankar, Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), said: "This is in line with Namma Metro's commitment to providing good transportation, accessibility, and enhancing citizens' lives in Bengaluru. It marks the second directly connecting bridge from a metro station to a retail space on the Namma Metro network."

In 2017, BMRCL leased 13 acres of land to Ikea India Pvt. Ltd. near Nagasandra on Tumakuru Road for 60 years.

Following the opening of the entire Purple Line stretch recently, there has been a notable increase in foot traffic at Nagasandra, a terminal station on the Green Line. According to BMRCL, Nagasandra is among the stations experiencing the highest number of visitors, primarily attributed to the presence of the IKEA store.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 19, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Nordic writers keep alive a troubled, brilliant hacker created by Stieg Larsson **bit.ly/nordicnoirnew**
- How quantum algorithms solve problems that classical computers can't **bit.ly/quantumalgorithms**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

People who signed up for organ donation on the NOTTO website

82,000 Men have been outnumbered by women in signing up for organ donation on a recently-launched website of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). PTI

Expected revenue drop in the diamond polishing industry

30-35 in percentage. India's diamond polishing industry will see its revenue drop in the current fiscal year due to poor demand from the U.S., EU and China, rating agency Crisil informed. PTI

Advocates recommended as HC judges by collegium

13 The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud said for the purpose of assessing the merit of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, they have scrutinised and evaluated the material placed on record. PTI

PhonePe's revenue increase in FY23, year-on-year

77 in percentage. Walmart-owned PhonePe's consolidated revenue grew to ₹29.14 billion from ₹16.46 billion a year ago. It has more than 490 million registered users, a near 51% share of the value of transactions on India's UPI system. REUTERS

The amount needed to assist earthquake-hit Afghanistan

19 in $ million. The United Nations' World Food Program appealed for $19 million to provide emergency assistance to tens of thousands of people affected by a series of devastating earthquakes. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Aboriginal referendum in Australia

What does an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament constitute? How will it change the country's constitution? What are the rules for holding a referendum in Australia? How has the Anthony Albanese led government reacted to the results?

EXPLAINER

Amy Maguire

A majority of Australian voters have rejected the proposal to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, with the final results likely to be about 40% voting "yes" and 60% voting "no".

What was the referendum about?
In this referendum, Australians were asked to vote on whether to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Voice was proposed as a means of recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution.

The Voice proposal was a modest one. It was to be an advisory body for the national parliament and government. Had the referendum succeeded, Australia's Constitution would have been amended with a new section 129 [as stated below]:

"In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia: i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."

This proposal was drawn from the Uluru Statement from the Heart [The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a 2017 petition to the people of Australia, written and endorsed by the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. The document calls for constitutional change and structural reform through the creation of two new institutions – a constitutionally protected First Nations Voice and a Makarrata Commission, to oversee agreements and truth-telling between governments and First Nations] from 250 Indigenous leaders, which called for three phases of reform – Voice, followed by Treaty and Truth – telling about Australia's colonial history. The proposal was for constitutional change to ensure the Voice would not be abolished by government in future, as previous Indigenous bodies have been.

How did Australians vote?
Voting is compulsory in Australia. Every eligible Australian citizen over 18 years of age is obliged to vote in elections and referendums. Australia has one of the highest rates of voter turn out in the world – over 90% of those eligible have voted in every national election since compulsory voting was introduced in 1924.

Australia has a written Constitution. A successful referendum vote is required to change the Constitution in any way.

To succeed, a referendum proposition requires a double majority. This means it must be agreed to by a majority of voters, and a majority of states. Australia has six states, so at least four must have a majority of voters in favour for a referendum to succeed.

Australia also has two territories – individuals in the territories contribute to the overall vote, but the territories do not count towards the majority of states.

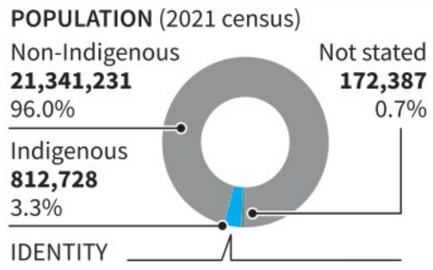
Representation for the Indigenous

Australians were asked to vote on whether to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Voice was proposed as a means of recognising them as the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution

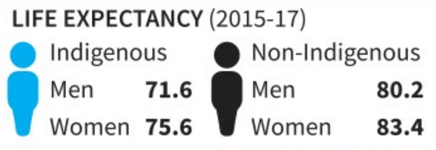
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
Have inhabited Australia for around 60,000 years. They comprise several hundred groups that have their own histories, traditions and languages

SOCIAL GAP
Indigenous people live around eight years less than non-Indigenous people and suffer disproportionately high rates of suicide and imprisonment

POPULATION (2021 census)



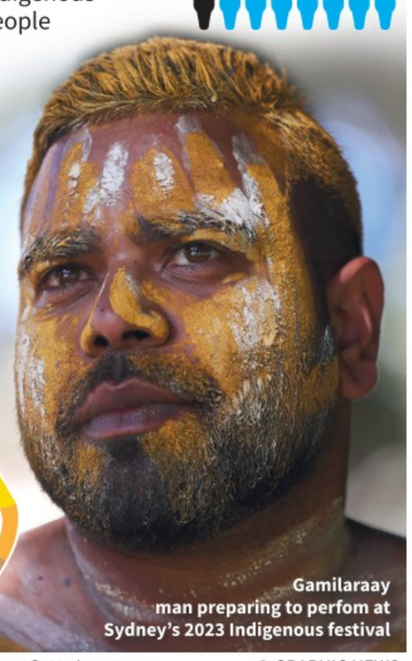
LIFE EXPECTANCY (2015-17)



IMPRISONMENT
Around 15 times higher among Indigenous people

- Population plummets after British arrival in 1788, through dispossession, new diseases, slavery and killings
- Until as late as 1970s, one in three children were forcibly removed from their families for assimilation into White society. **Government apologises for "Stolen Generations" in 2008**

REFERENDUM RESULT
A majority of Australian voters have rejected the referendum, with at least 60% of the nation voting "no"



Gamilaraay man preparing to perfom at Sydney's 2023 Indigenous festival

Sources: Reuters, Australian Government Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

It's very difficult to achieve constitutional change in Australia. Since federation in 1901, 45 questions have been put to Australian voters in referendums. Only eight of those have succeeded.

In the Voice referendum, only the Australian Capital Territory voted "yes" by majority. A clear majority of the national electorate voted "no". All states returned majority "no" results.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people constitute 3.8% of Australia's population. Government members claimed on ABC TV in the referendum coverage that polling booths including high proportions of Indigenous voters, for example Palm Island in Queensland, returned high "yes" votes. However, in a majoritarian democracy like Australia, such a small proportion of the national population cannot dictate the outcome of a national poll.

Importantly, the Voice referendum did not have unanimous support across the two main political parties in Australia. The Labour government announced and has campaigned for "yes". The leader of the opposition, Liberal Queensland MP Peter Dutton, campaigned strongly against the referendum proposal.

> Be proud of your identity. Be proud of the 65,000 years of history and culture that you are part of. And your rightful place in this country. We will carry on and we'll move forward and we will thrive
>
> **LINDA BURNEY**
> Indigenous Australians' Minister

What happens now?
The government is bound to abide by the referendum result. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has confirmed that his government will not seek to legislate a Voice as an alternative to the constitutional model.

Albanese, conceding the failure of the referendum, said: "Tomorrow we must seek a new way forward". He called for a renewed focus on doing better for First Peoples in Australia.

The referendum outcome represents a major loss for the government. But much more important than that will be the negative impacts of the campaign and loss on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

On ABC TV, Arrernte/Luritja woman Catherine Liddle called for a renewed focus on truth-telling and building understanding of Australia's history across the population. She said the failure of the referendum reflected a lack of understanding about the lives and experiences of Indigenous people in Australia.

"Yes" campaign advocates reported devastation at the outcome. Sana Nakata, writing here, said: "now we are where we have always been, left to build our better futures on our own".

Some First Nations advocates, including Victorian independent Senator Lidia Thorpe – a Gunnai, Gunditjmara and Djab Wurrung woman – argued the Voice proposal lacked substance and that the referendum should not have been held.

Advocates of a "progressive no" vote (who felt the Voice didn't go far enough) will continue to call for recognition of continuing First Nations sovereignty and self-determination through processes of treaty and truth-telling.

The information landscape for Australian voters leading up to this referendum was murky and difficult to navigate. The Australian Electoral Commission published a disinformation register. Misinformation and lies, many circulated through social media, have influenced the decision-making of a proportion of voters.

It's open to question whether constitutional change of any kind can be achieved while voters remain so exposed to multiple versions of "truth".

For many First Nations people, the proliferation of lies and misinformation driven by racism throughout the Voice debate have been traumatising and brutal.

Indigenous Australians' Minister, Wiradjuri woman Linda Burney, spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the result: "Be proud of your identity. Be proud of the 65,000 years of history and culture that you are part of". Her pain was patently obvious as she responded to the referendum outcome.

Amy Maguire is an Associate Professor in Human Rights and International Law, University of Newcastle. This article has been republished from The Conversation.

THE GIST

Australians were asked to vote on whether to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Voice was proposed as a means of recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution.

Voting is compulsory in Australia. Every eligible Australian citizen over 18 years of age is obliged to vote in elections and referendums.

It's very difficult to achieve constitutional change in Australia. Since federation in 1901, 45 questions have been put to Australian voters in referendums. Only eight of those have succeeded.

Reddy conducts review meeting on demands of transport operators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday conducted a review meeting with Transport Department officials, regarding the various demands submitted by operators of private buses, autos, and cabs, under the aegis of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Unions, a few months ago.

In July, the representatives of 32 private transport associations called for a bandh and submitted their demands to the Minister.

The federation consists of 32 transport unions, which have placed 28 demands before the State government.

Multiple rounds of talks between the government and the federation, including a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, failed to yield any results, said the federation members.

The association's requests encompassed several key demands, such as the establishment of an independent transportation board, starting an Indira Canteen at the airport, provision of loan facilities for private taxi owners, and addressing additional concerns related to app-based cab services.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said: "This meeting was part of ongoing discussions aimed at resolving the concerns of private bus, auto, and taxi operators. No final decisions were taken, but efforts were under way to meet their demands. However, issues regarding the app-based cab services cannot be resolved since there is an ongoing court case."

Fire engulfs cafe; staffer injured after jumping from fourth floor

Fire Services personnel suspect the blaze started in the kitchen of the cafe in Koramangala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An employee of a cafe was rushed to hospital after he jumped from a building that caught fire on Wednesday.

Mudpipe Cafe is on the fourth floor of a building near Forum mall at Koramangala.

The injured, who is being treated at the hospital, has been identified as Prem Singh Saud, 29, and his condition remains critical.

A fireball-like blast that engulfed the cafe was gradually brought under control by seven fire engines. A Fire and Emergency Services personnel said it is suspected that the fire started in the kitchen.

An FIR was registered at Sudduguntepalya police station. According to police sources, a cylinder blast caused the fire and the cafe was filled with thick smoke.

A video grab shows a man attempting to escape after a fire broke out at a multi-storey commercial building in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Prem, who was in the restaurant, suffered injuries in his lungs as he inhaled toxic gas.

He also sustained multiple injuries on his body as he jumped off the building. Prem, who was first taken to a government hospital, was later admitted to a private facility.

The jurisdictional traffic police had cordoned off the area and cleared traffic for the movement of the seven fire engines.

Attibele fire tragedy: Toll increases to 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old youth, identified as Rajesh, who sustained burns in the Attibele firecracker tragedy, succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital on Wednesday. Rajesh is the 17th victim of the incident.

Rajesh, a native of Vaniyambadi in Tamil Nadu, was working as a labourer and was injured while unloading firecracker boxes at the godown, where the accident occurred.

The other two injured persons, who were admitted along with him, are undergoing treatment and are presently out of danger.

Three officials have been suspended in the case so far and three accused, including the owner of the fire cracker shop-cum-godown, have been arrested by the CID, which is probing the case.

Soon after the incident, the enforcement agencies, including the police, the Fire and Emergency Services, and the Revenue Department, cracked down on firecracker shops in and around Attibele and Anekal for violations of licensing conditions.

Case against Telangana MLA for 'hate speech'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police on Wednesday registered a Zero FIR against Telangana BJP MLA Raja Singh for his alleged hate speech made at Bhilwara, Rajasthan, recently.

Based on a complaint filed by the city-based Law and Policy Research Institute, requesting urgent action against his alleged inflammatory hate speech targeting and calling for violence against minorities, the police filed the FIR charging him under various sections of the IT Act and under sections of the IPC.

The police are now coordinating with the Rajasthan police for further investigation and action in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **SRI.B.S.CHANDRASHEKAR** S/o Late B.L.Satyanarayana Setty, residing in the Schedule property.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.4 (CITB/BDA Site No.167), PID No.50-58-4, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 56 ft, with a building thereon, situated at 7th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No.166
West by : Property bearing No.168
North by : Property bearing No.163
South by : Road

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.
Phone No.044-29862018, 28511972

TAMIN COMMECIAL GRANITE BLOCKS AUCTION AT QUARRIES

1	Description	**Local auction at each quarry site to sell commercial grade granite blocks.**
2	Local Auction Date & Time	Visit website-**www.tamingranites.com**
3	Entry Fee	Rs.25,000/- per firm per quarry

For details visit **www.tamingranites.com** or mail to **mmsales@tamingranites.com**
DIPR/5674/TENDER/2023 **GENERAL MANAGER(i/c)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No. 22/2023 Dated: 13.10.2023
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender closing Time: 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl	Tender No.	Description in Brief (E-Open Tenders)	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	30231701	Water tank assembly	274 Nos	02.11.2023
2	56235242	Relay QN1 24 V DC 8F/8B	990 Nos	06.11.2023
3	33235045	One coach set of SS Trough assembly	208 Sets	08.11.2023
4	60231899	Bolts & nuts as per IRS T-23-2021	252 MT	08.11.2023
5	60232011A	60 Kg 1 in 12 curved switch to Drawing T-4219	152 Sets	08.11.2023
6	83231102A	Computerized Reservation Ticket 18x10 cms	37857 Rolls	09.11.2023
7	38231176	Knuckle for HT (Box N)	2507 Nos	09.11.2023

For tender No. 60234149A of Notice No. 19/2023, due date changed from 09.10.2023 to 25.10.2023.
For details log on: **www.ireps.gov.in**
PUB/454/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
South Western Railway-SWR southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LTD
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com

Notice inviting tender for Procurement through Rate Contract

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound Authorized manufacturers/ supplier only for supply of following Material through rate contract :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Bid Submission start date	Pre bid meeting date	Bid Submission end date	Last date of physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**206/PR/JBVNL/ 2023-24** Rail Pole (13 mtr. long, 60 kg./m)	Rs 10000/- + GST	18/10/2023 from 13:00 Hrs.	18/10/2023 from 13:10 Hrs.	18/10/2023 from 13:20 Hrs.	01/11/2023 at 15.30 Hrs.	07/11/2023 upto 18:00 Hrs.	08/11/2023 upto 16:30 Hrs.	08/11/2023 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431135523/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fees must be paid in the form of DD (original copy) or through online mode. The details for the online transaction is mentioned in the tender document.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

PR 309285 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24)#D

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager (S&P)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bachu Geetha Vani, W/o Bachu Kubera Gupta Residing at No.317, Basavaraju Layout, B.M. Road, Behind Govt Hospital, Bidadi, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562109. I have Changed my name from **Bachu Geetha Vani** to **N Geetha Vani** Vide affidavit dated 13-10-2023 before Notary Puttaraju.P. Ramanagara

COFFEE BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
No.1, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No.Adm/Engg/CBHO/HKS/2023-24/135 Date:17.10.2023
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER
On line tenders are invited in two bid systems by the Coffee Board for the work of **"House Keeping Services in Coffee Board Head Office, Bengaluru"**. For further details, visit **https://indiacoffee.enivida.com** or **https://indiacoffee.gov.in/ https://epublish/app**
The Last Date for Submission of Online Tenders is **07.11.2023 by 3:30 pm.**
The Date of Opening of Technical Bids is **07.11.2023 at 4:30 pm.**
Deputy Director Extension [P&C]
Coffee Board, Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.
Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2023-24/33 Date: 11.10.2023

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Provision and Improvement by generating Solar power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations over Mysuru divsion.	Rs. 45,83,000/-

Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2023-24/34 Date: 12.10.2023

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Provision of Solar pumps at various locations over Mysuru division.	Rs. 42,80,000/-

Last date for submission of bids for both above works: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 02.11.2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/452/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice
For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-1) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Name of work:** Tender No. EL/C/JP/RTGH-CUR/Doubling/T/ 03/2023-24 Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Railway Electrification work of 2x25KV OHE system in Ratangrah -Churu section of Bikaner Division, NWR in connection with doubling work, **Approximate cost of the Work:** Rs.279595286.00, **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 1548000.00, **Date of Completion of work:** 18 Months, **Date & Time of closing E-Tender Date & Time of opening E-Tender:** 17.11.2023 Upto 15-00 Hrs. , 17.11.2023 at 15.30 Hrs., **The details of above E-Tender are available on Website:** www.ireps.gov.in.
1107-PR/23
Follow us at /NWRailways NWRailways_

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 28 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Bridge works**
3. No. of work : **11 nos.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **A / Special Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 19.10.2023 to 5.00 PM of 14.11.2023**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.15.11.2023 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1102: OIPR-34003/11/0047/2324

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	(WWM-STP) K&T Valley	No: BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)K&T/ AE/373/2023-24 Date:11.10.2023 (4th Call)	Rs. 25,13,348/- / Rs. 59,315/-	02.11.2023 upto 04:00 Pm	03.11.2023 at 04:05 Pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP)K&T Valley

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

2	SOUTH WEST-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/2381/ 2023-24 Dated: 16.10.2023	1	Rs. 28,30,800/- / Rs. 56,700/-	03.11.2023 upto 4:00 pm	06.11.2023 after 3:00 p.m.
			2	Rs. 17,28,882/- / Rs. 43,300/-		
			3	Rs. 18,60,469/- / Rs. 46,600/-		
			4	Rs. 32,19,995/- / Rs. 64,400/-		
			5	Rs. 33,54,928/- / Rs. 67,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1)

3	SOUTH - 1	BWSSB/EES-1/PB/1533/ 2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023	Rs. 42,24,339/- / Rs. 84,500/-	31.10.2023 upto 04:00 pm	02.11.2023 after 03:00 pm
4		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/1534/ 2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023	Rs. 59,39,932/- / Rs. 1,18,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

5	DC& BM	BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/1266/ 2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023	Rs. 92,35,638/- / Rs. 2,17,961/-	26.10.2023 upto 04:00 pm	30.10.2023 after 04:00 pm
6		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/1268/ 2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs. 11,89,297/- / Rs. 14,874/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DC&BM)

The details regarding the tender and participating in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/JA/1768/2023-24

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Narendra Kumar Gupta S/O Ghanshyam Das Gupta R/O B106 Maangalya Prosper Apptt Anjanapura 3A Block BDA layout Bangalore 560062 has changed my name from Narendra Kumar Ghanshyam Das Gupta to Narendra Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

I, MOHAMMAD Zainullabdeen Shoeb, R/at TMK Peersab Compound, Holalkere Road, Beside Cholugudda, Chitradurga-577501 have changed my name from Mohammad Zainullabdeen Shoeb to Mohammed Zainullabdeen Shoeb vide affidavit dated 17-10-2023 before Notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, KHADAR Riyaz Khan, R/at No.13, 1st Floor, 5th B Cross, Bhoopasandra, New Extension, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore -560094 have changed my name from Khadar Riyaz Khan to Riyaz Khan vide affidavit dated 17-10-2023 before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, PRATEEJA Nair, W/o Sajeev Kumar Nair, R/at No.58, 59, 5th Cross, 4th Main, SG Palya, Tavarekera, Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name from Prateeja Nair to Prateeja S Nair vide affidavit dated 18-10-2023 before Notary H.G.Venkataramu, Bangalore.

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: Leaking Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

LEGAL NOTICE

In The Court of the 1st Additional Junior Civil Judge: Tirupati
O.S.No.406/2020
S.Renuka and another ..Plaintiffs
Vs
N.Dora Babu and others ..Defendants
Suit Summons to Defendants No.6
D6) S.Lakshminarasimha Sarma S/o S.Subbaramaiah, D.No: 1003, BSK, 1st street, 9th main, 2nd Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, South Bangalore, Karnataka.
Please take notice that the above suit is filed for the grant permanent injunction and it stands posted to **20.11.2023** for your appearance and fails to appear on the said date at 10.30 am., the matter will be decided ex-parte.
M.NAGARAJU
Advocate, D.No.1-4-599/1, Balaji Colony, Tirupati. Andhra Pradesh State

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25622/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 Represented by its Debt Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
AND :
Mr. Gautam Kumar ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. Gautam Kumar, S/o Mr. Dadan Prasad, Aged about 29 years, R/at No. 71, Third Floor, Flat No. 305, 2nd Main, 1st Cross, Anugraha Layout, Near Parivar Residency, Bangalore- 560 076
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs.12,72,921/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Only)** together with interest @11.99% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble **13th** Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH- 22)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **27/11/2023** at **11.00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **11.10.2023.**
BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BANGALORE
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU-560001
O.A.NO. 93/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD. The Senate IBC, Ulsoor Road, Yellappa Garden, Yelappa Chetty Layout, Shivachetti Gardens, Bengaluru-560008. ...APPLICANT
AND :
Mr. K. Shankar. S/o. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Aged About 42 Years, Residing at No. 105, Sri Lakshmi Nilaya, Venketeshwara Threatre Road, Near Srinivasa Factory, Devasandra, BANGALORE-560036
Also at
Mr. Shankar, No. 754/361/7 and 114 Max House, Amruthanagar B sector, BANGALORE-560092 ...DEFENDANT
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 20,83,350.24/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and Paisa Twenty Four Only) together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 19/12/2023 at 10.30 A.M., as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this the 31st day of August, 2023.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I
Bangalore

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU- 560001
O.A. NO. 1347/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited., Having its Registered Office at The Senate IBC, Ulsoor Gardens, Yellappa Garden, Yellappa Chetty Layout, Sivachetti Gardens, BENGALURU- 560 008 ...APPLICANT
AND :
MR. MANJUNATH Aged about 40 years., S/o. Bycheppe, Proprietor of M/s. Well Cab Services, No. 258/1, Punyabhoomi Layout, Kempamma Temple Road, Kalkere, Near BBMP Office, BANGALORE- 560 043.
ALSO AT
MR. MANJUNATH, Prop: M/s Well Cab Services, No. 1, Gopal Reddy Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, BANGALORE- 560 043.
ALSO AT
MR. MANJUNATH No. 229/3, Kalkere Village, K.R. Puram, Bangalore East, BANGALORE- 560 016
ALSO AT
MR. MANJUNATH Prop. M/s Well Cab Services, No. 87, Chikkananjundappa Layout, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, BENGALURU- 560 016
ALSO AT
MR. MANJUNATH, Prop: M/s Well Cab Services, No. 1, 3rd Cross, Narayana Reddy Road, Gopal Reddy Layout, BANGALORE-560 016 ...DEFENDANT
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of Rs.77,67,794.00 (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundrend and Ninety Four Only) together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or one **07/12/2023** at **10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 05th October, 2023
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1
Bangalore

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GETTY IMAGES

Nordic writers keep alive a troubled, brilliant hacker created by Stieg Larsson

As Lisbeth Salander is back in Karin Smirnoff's *The Girl in the Eagle's Talons*, a lowdown on Scandinavian fiction including books of Henning Mankell, featuring inspector Kurt Wallander, who brought the crime fiction genre into the mainstream

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

Lisbeth Salander returns in the seventh book of the Millennium series with Karin Smirnoff's *The Girl in the Eagle's Talons*. Lisbeth, the brilliant, bisexual, tattooed and troubled computer hacker made her debut in journalist Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* in 2005. While there are different theories to her genesis, with Larsson being quite the unreliable narrator, apart from introducing a bunch of novels with "The Girl" in the title into the world, Lisbeth was also responsible for the latest wave of fascination for "Nordic noir".

Though the term "Nordic noir" gained currency in the 2010s, being coined by the Scandinavian Department at the University College of London, the beginnings of the genre could be found in Swedish journalists Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö's stories of Stockholm police detective, Martin Beck, through 10 novels from *Roseanna* (1965) to *Terroristerna* (The Terrorists/1975).

Wallander's stories

Henning Mankell's books, featuring inspector Kurt Wallander solving horrific crimes in Ystad in Sweden in the 1990s, brought the genre into the mainstream. There have been other writers who have made their presence felt including Norwegian Jo Nesbo with Inspector Harry Hole, siblings from Denmark Lotte and Søren Hammer with their deeply disturbing books featuring Detective Konrad Simonsen and Håkan Nesser with Inspector Gunnar Barbarotti.

Nordic or Scandinavian noir are mainly police procedurals where bleakly beautiful snowscapes hide brutal crimes. Like all police procedurals, there is routine police work including going to give evidence in court, multiple cases etc. – it is not like everything is dropped to follow up on this one case. It is also teamwork that cracks the case, not a flash of inspiration from a little egg headed foreigner with magnificent moustaches. The detective leading the investigation, while blessed with insight and a way of making obscure connections, is no superhuman. Wallander struggles with diabetes, a failed marriage and poignantly dementia in the 12th Wallander novel, *The Troubled Man*.

Like Peter James' Roy Grace novels, set in Brighton, which have a running mystery in the disappearance of Grace's wife, Sandy, there are Nordic noir novels with a continuing mystery around members of the team alongside the main mystery in the book. Mathematician and IT consultant turned author Carin Gerhardsen's *The Hammarby Series*, while telling of Detective Inspector Conny Sjöberg and his team solving crimes in Stockholm, also features mysteries of one of the officers' past and another's date rape.

The fact that only three of the eight novels are translated from Swedish into English is a mighty sore point as one has no way of knowing the resolution to those particular mysteries.

Amateur sleuth

Though Larsson's Millennium series provided another mighty push for Nordic noir, it differs from the others by putting the amateur sleuth in the driving seat. Despite all the horrors of human trafficking, animal harm, mutilation, unbridled savagery and neo-Nazis, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* is, at its heart, a tribute to Agatha Christie. We have the amateur sleuths in Salander and disgraced journalist Mikael Blomkvist; the rich industrialist, Vanger who is haunted by the mysterious disappearance of his favourite great niece, Harriet, from the remote island of Hedeby 40 years ago and the large dysfunctional family all hiding horrid secrets. It is a classic mystery with a closed circle of suspects and clues hidden in the Bible, old newspaper photographs, and puzzling pressed flowers.

Dragon Tattoo was followed by *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (2006), and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest* (2007). After Larsson passed away, the series was kept alive by David Lagercrantz's *The Girl in the Spider's Web* (2015), *The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye* (2017), and *The Girl Who Lived Twice* (2019).

The Girl in the Eagle's Talons marks the beginning of a new trilogy by Smirnoff, and finds Lisbeth and Blomkvist in the nowhere town of the Swedish far north, Gasskas. Salander has come to reluctantly take charge of her gifted 13-year-old niece, Svala, after her mother disappears. Svala is the daughter of Salander's step-brother, Niedermann, and like her father, Svala feels no pain. Blomkvist, now a grandfather, travels to Gasskas for his daughter's wedding to a probably shady councilman. Blomkvist is not in a very good place considering it is the last print issue of the magazine *Millennium* – it is going to be a podcast henceforth.

There is the bizarre baddie with the mandatory weird sidekick making one think of Dr Evil and Random Task. All are present and correct for a thrill ride through the frozen wasteland of Gasskas with slices of pizza and coke, sex, sadism and social injustice.

While the original trilogy was propulsive, with no time to pause and acknowledge the faintly clunky writing, with Lagercrantz's trilogy built on the same template, *Eagle's Talons* is more meditative. Blomkvist as a grandfather is not as self absorbed and his version for getting the truth out there is not all fire and brimstone, but more nuanced. His mentoring of a new batch of journalists is heartening. Lisbeth at 35 is not very different from her younger self, and she should not be either, despite the perceptive, code-breaker niece.

Smirnoff, apart from being the first woman to write the Millennium series, has given the series a forward momentum (*Eagle's Talons* was about green-washing, book 8 is about mining) that ensures its currency on the high table of Nordic noir.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. S. Ramamurthy, Anandnagar, Tiruchi wants to know whether 'newly-weds' is acceptable usage."

"It is. 'Newly-weds' are 'a man and a woman who have recently got married'.

It was a gathering of newly-weds.

There is a tendency these days to drop the hyphen. Perhaps some feel that a hyphen should not separate a newly married couple or newlyweds. What God has brought together no hyphen should separate!"

"Sir, Mr. S. Umesha Mallayya, River View, Mahe, says that 'postgraduate as a noun means a student undergoing studies after attaining his first university degree, but not a holder of a master's degree in the subject'. He wants to know why in India 'postgraduate' is used to mean a person who has a master's degree in a discipline."

"Sir, your definition is correct. A postgraduate is one who after obtaining a first degree studies does research at an advanced level. 'Postgraduate' is used in British English. In India, we use it to mean an M.A. as we are always in a hurry to get a degree!"

"Sir, Mr. C. S. Jha, Bhopal, wants to know the difference between 'at par' and 'on par'."

" 'At par' means 'price that is printed on stocks and shares; face value'. 'Above par' means 'at a premium', 'below par' means 'at a discount'. 'On a par with' means 'equal in importance, quality, etc., to somebody or something'. It is not on par with but on a par with.

As a poet, he is on a par with Kalidasa.

'Up to par' means 'as good, as usual'.

Her performance was not up to par.

Please note that it is not upto but up to."

"Sir, Mr. S. Lakshminarasimhan, Canara Bank, Dharmapuri, wants to know the meaning of 'buttonhole'."

" 'To buttonhole' means 'to stop and force someone to join in a conversation'.

During my morning walk, she buttonholed me and discussed her plans.

'Buttonhole' is an altered form of 'buttonhold'. To buttonhole' is 'to detain another in conversation as if by holding on to the buttonholds of his outer garments'. This is the origin of the idiom. So don't think that people will button up if there are no buttons on your shirt. Even shirtless people can be buttonholed. In American English, 'on the button' means 'precisely', 'exactly', 'on the dot'.

She was here at five on the button.

I expect you to be here at nine on the button."

"Sir, Ms. K. R. Bhatnagar, Guwahati, wants to know the meaning of 'like a bat out of hell'."

"It means 'very quickly'. It is an idiom used on informal occasions.

When he heard the news, he left the place like a bat out of hell.

When they noticed a cobra in the room, they fled like a bat out of hell.

Published in The Hindu on October 3, 1989.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The advancement of Artificial Intelligence has taken the world by storm. Here is a quiz on modern forms of technology and its impact

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

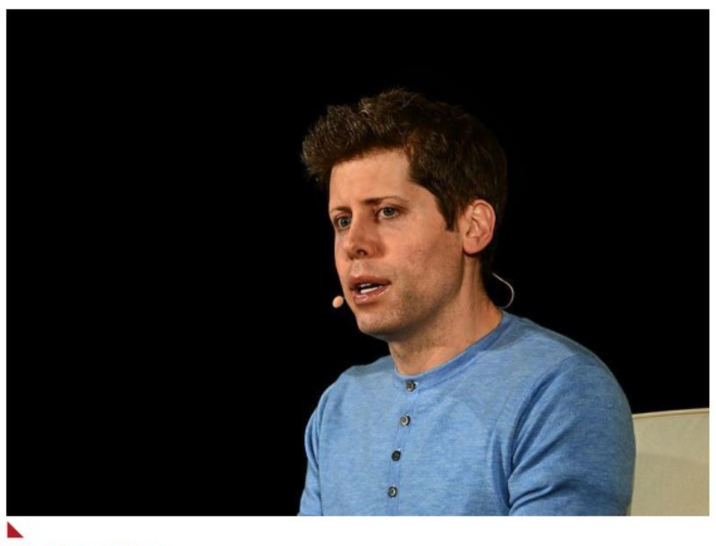
QUESTION 1
What is the Test that measures a machine's ability to exhibit human-like intelligence known as?

QUESTION 2
By what name do we know the machine learning paradigm wherein AI agents learn to make sequences of decisions to maximise a reward?

QUESTION 3
What do we call a "computer program" that's been fed a ton of text data, which it then uses to learn the patterns and structures of human language, so it can spit out text that sounds like it was written by a human?

QUESTION 4
What does Generative AI use to generate human-like text, and what is the role of pre-training and fine-tuning in this process?

QUESTION 5
What term is used to describe the image content generated using a form of artificial intelligence called deep learning to make images of fake events?



Visual question:
Identify this American entrepreneur who is the CEO of Open AI. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 2023, this country's government in March vowed to legalise same-sex marriage. **Ans: Estonia**
2. Marriage between same-sex couples is recognised in these many countries. **Ans: 34; The most recent country to legalise it was Andorra**
3. The first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage. **Ans: The Netherlands in 2001**
4. Female same-sex marriage is practised among the Gikuyu, Nandi, Kamba, and Kipsigis in this part of the world. **Ans: Africa**
5. This country's new constitution includes a clause limiting marriage to a union of one man and one woman. **Ans: Mali**
6. This is the only Christian-majority country with capital punishment for some consensual same-sex acts. **Ans: Uganda**
Visual: Identify this couple. **Ans: Michael McConnell and Jack Baker. They are known for being the first same-sex couple to be married legally in the world**
Early Birds: Mohammed Anshad E. K.| K. N. Viswanathan

Word of the day

Anodyne:
a medicine used to relieve pain; capable of relieving pain (used as a noun and as an adjective)

Synonyms: painkiller, analgesic, analgetic

Usage: *She was talking about the anodyne properties of certain drugs.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/anodynepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /a.nɔ.din/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

IIA holds first star party for amateur astronomers at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first official star party for experienced amateur astronomers was organised by the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in eastern Ladakh between October 12 and 15. Hanle is home to IIA's Indian Astronomical Observatory and hosts many professional telescopes owing to its dark skies and dry weather.

About 30 amateur astronomers travelled to Hanle with their telescopes and cameras to experience the beauty of the skies unaffected by light pollution, and to photograph faint celestial objects that cannot be done from other locations.

"Hanle has one of the darkest skies in India and recently, an area of radius roughly 22 km around Hanle has been notified by the UT Ladakh as the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR). HDSR aims to control man-made light pollution in the area in order to preserve the pristine dark skies for astronomical research," said Dorje Angchuk, Engineer in charge of the observatory.

The participants, who came from different places like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mandi, Ahmedabad, Lakshadweep, and Mumbai, brought their own telescopes and cameras to conduct their individual astrophotography projects, and the area outside the observatory was dotted with a dozen telescopes.

The cold nights saw the participants, local villagers, and tourists, all bundled up in multiple layers of warm clothing, peering through each of the telescopes to see many gas clouds and galaxies in the sky with a level of detail that is not possible from light-polluted towns and cities.

"As a keen visual observer, I was able to see obscure faint galaxies at HDSR with its Bortle-1 (darkest) sky. Although the high altitude, the cold and lack of oxygen, and the transport of bulky precision equipment were huge challenges, it was definitely worth the effort", said Sudhash Natarajan from Bangalore Astronomical Society.

HSRPs installed on only 1.75 lakh vehicles ahead of November 17 deadline

In August, the Transport Department issued a notification and circular, mandating the installation of high-security registration plates on 2 crore vehicles registered before April 1, 2019

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The implementation of the Transport Department's directive to install high-security registration plates (HSRPs) on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, is progressing slowly, with them being installed on only 1.75 lakh vehicles so far.

In August, the Transport Department issued a notification and circular mandating the installation of HSRP on 2 crore vehicles registered before April 1, 2019. The department set this November 17 as the deadline for the installation of HSRPs.

According to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, owing to an ongoing court case, the department is also not pushing for it at present.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said: "There is a pending court case on the HSRP issue, which is why we are also not creating much awareness about it. However, the people who are affixing the HSRP plates should be doing it as per the notification."

The notification, issued on August 17, specifies that owners failing to comply with this rule will face penalties ranging from ₹500 to ₹1,000.

The high-security registration plates have features such as permanent identification number and chromium-based hologram. K. MURALI KUMAR

HSRP has features such as permanent identification number and chromium-based hologram.

The Transport Department said the unique features of HSRP number plates cannot be tampered with.

Meanwhile, many vehicle owners remain uninformed about the rule. Vehicle owner Sreedhara Murthy said: "I was unaware until recently when my friend got it done. From August till October, this information didn't come to my view anywhere. This shows there was no active awareness campaign by the department. I think they have not been proactive in informing the public about it."

Vehicle owners are also not pleased with the deadline imposed by the department and said that the timeframe given is too short. "I believe the awareness efforts about HSRP need to be more proactive, especially considering the substantial task of affixing them to 2 crore vehicles within such a limited timeframe. In this short deadline, how many vehicles will be affixed with the HSRPs?," Krishna Prasad, another vehicle owner, asked.

Owners of vehicles are urging for an extension of the deadline. Mr. Reddy said that extending the deadline is one of the matters that will be discussed with officials, and a decision will be made soon, given the low compliance rate of affixing the HSRPs now.

Earlier, the Association of Registration Plates Manufacturers' of India had alleged that many vehicle owners have been fixing HSRPs through unauthorised dealers or manufacturers.

The High Court of Karnataka on September 12 ordered issue of notice to the State government on a petition questioning the August 17 notification of the Transport Department allowing only vehicle manufacturers and their authorised dealers to fix HSRP for old vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019. The petitioners have alleged that the notification was issued to allow only the 'influential' HSRP manufacturers, who have tied up with vehicle manufacturers and their authorised dealers for the supply of HSRPs for new vehicles.

FIR against officials for converting forest into revenue land

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Department has registered an FIR against Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru North Division, M.G. Shivanna and Bengaluru East tahsildar Ajith Kumar Rai for allegedly converting forest land into revenue land. The duo had allegedly converted 17 acres and 34 guntas of forest land (survey number 47) in Kothanur worth ₹500 crore at market value to revenue land.

The duo has been booked under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, Sections 33, 104, and 104c.

Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed the Forest Department officials to register FIRs against erring officials who had converted forest to revenue land, and against those who had aided those trying to encroach upon this area.

According to a release by Mr. Khandre, the two officers allegedly converted this Forest Department land, worth crores of rupees, even though a case in connection with this land went all the way to the Supreme Court and was deemed forest land after a joint survey. "Now that the department has registered this, it will act as a warning to erring officials who indulge in such acts," a release from the Minister's office stated.

Sarbojanin Durga Puja from Oct. 19 to 24

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kaggadasapura Bengali Association is celebrating its 17th year of Sarbojanin Durga Puja at V.K. Sports Auditorium, Kaggadasapura from October 19 to 24.

The North Bangalore Cultural Samithi is celebrating this year's Durga Puja from October 19 to 24 at Hindu Sadara Kshemabhivrudhi Sangha, 4th Main Road, West of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, Nagapur. For details, visit North Bangalore Cultural Samithi (nbcskalibari.com).

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, OCT. 19
RISE 06:10 SET 17:59
RISE 10:04 SET 21:35

FRIDAY, OCT. 20
RISE 06:10 SET 17:58
RISE 11:05 SET 22:34

SATURDAY, OCT. 21
RISE 06:11 SET 17:58
RISE 12:04 SET 23:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Habitual offender stabs head constable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A habitual offender stabbed a head constable in a bid to escape arrest in Shivajinagar on Wednesday. The accused, Hasan Khan, was caught and handed over to the Shivajinagar police for further investigation. The victim, Samiulla, was admitted to hospital and is said to be under treatment.

According to the police, a CCB team had obtained the location of the accused. A team with the help of Samiulla, who stays in the same area, laid a trap to catch Hasan.

When the police team covered the area and Samiulla tried to reach Hasan, the accused, sensing trouble, pulled out a dagger and attacked Samiulla.

INBRIEF

Students take up fight against poverty at grassroots level

Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru, a UNAI hub for Sustainable Development Goals, organised a campaign, "Sip right, live bright", to educate the migrant labourers in the city on the necessity of utilising clean water sources on October 16 and 17.

This was organised to commemorate the International Day for Eradication of Poverty.

The college, in a release, said the campaign was an outcome of a remarkable endeavour undertaken by 60 postgraduate students in their efforts to make a difference at the grassroots level. With a commitment to understanding, advocating and initiating dialogue, they have taken up the challenge of addressing the often-overlooked plight of internal migrants in India.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated October 19, we have a story on an exhibition of rare photographs of the Mysuru's royal Dasara, organised by the India Institute of World Culture along with Maya Films and Maharaja Shri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Foundation.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)
No.EEE/BMWND/AEE-2/AE-2/2023-24/3285-87 Dated: 18.10.2023

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

M/s Palladium Construction has laid 66KV 1000Sq.mm EHT XLPE UG cable from 220/66kV NRS Sub-station, West of chord road, Rajajinagar to 66/11kV Palladium Construction Sub-station in Bengaluru Urban District for a route length of 2.5kms under self execution basis for KPTCL which will be energized on or after **19.10.2023.**

CABLE ROUTE: - Cable is having route length of about 2.5kms from 220/66kV NRS Rajajinagar via 17th Main road Rajajinagar, Basaveshwara School, KLE School, Navarang theatre, Dr. Rajkumar Road to connect to newly constructed 66/11kV Palladium Construction Sub-station.

Hence the General public/BBMP/Any public or State Government/Private Organizations are here by informed to keep away from the above EHT UG cable route and not to undertake any excavation in the above mentioned cable route.

Any untoward incidents or accidents which may occur during the course of excavation/executing the work by any agency along the cable route without following guidelines, **the KPTCL will not be held responsible** and damage charges for the KPTCL assets shall be borne by the executing body/agency only.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Ele),
Bengaluru Major Works North Division,
KPTCL, A. R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Irwin Road, Mysore - 570 001
Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website: www.mmcri/karnataka.gov.in
E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Sup/CR/166/2023-24 October 03, 2023

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of Drugs (I.V. Fluids) and other items for the period of one year to the K.R. Hospital, Cheluvamba Hospital and P.K.T.B. & C.D. Hospital, Trauma Care Center, Super Speciality Hospital which are associated hospitals of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18.10.2023 and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is 02.11.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/533/2023-24 **Sd/- Director and Dean**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED-C),
Annex-2 Building, Ground Floor, N.R. Square,
Bengaluru-560002
No.: E.E(MPED-C)/Tend/02/2023-24 Date: 18.10.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System)

It is hereby brought to the notice of the general public that, Burhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika is organizing the celebration of Kannada Rajyotsava at Mysore Bank Circle on **01.11.2023**, e-tenders have been invited through public procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency Act-1999 and Rules 2000 to provide Shamiyana, Stage, Loudspeaker, Lightings, Vijayanagar Hebbagilu and other necessary facilities for the said program. Eligible contractors may participate in the tender.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender in Rs.	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Providing, fixing and removal, arrangements for Stage, shamiyana, Vijayanagara Hebbagilu and other allied works for Kannada Rajyotsava 2023 at Mysore Bank Circle.	14,07,209/- (Inclusive of all Taxes)	35,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Submission of application through Karnataka Government Public Procurement Portal starts from: **19.10.2023**, **10:00 a.m.** onwards. **(2)** Last date for submission of filled tender contract application through Karnataka Government Public Procurement Portal on **26.10.2023** upto **5:30 p.m. (3)** Opening of Technical bids on **27.10.2023** at **5:30 p.m.** Financial bids will be opened only if the conditions of the Technical bids are qualified and bids not fulfilled conditions will be rejected. **(4)** Financial bids will be opened on **27.10.2023** after **5:31 p.m.** onwards. Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MPED-Central, BBMP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/23-24/4703-707 Date: 17.10.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

1.E-procurement Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/EL/Work_Indent-85
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/06/ Dt. 11.10.2023 for the work of Enhancement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with additional switchgears at 110/11kV Vadavatti Sub-station in Raichur Taluka and District.

2. E-procurement Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent-158
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/2023-24/12 Dtd:17.10. 2023 _Call-5. Tender for the Work of **Enhancement of 1X10 MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20 MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV Yapaladinni Sub-station** in Raichur Taluk and District.

3. E-procurement Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/ SS/Work_Indent-159
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/13 Dtd: 17.10.2023 for the work of Enhancement of 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at **66KV MUSS Kottur,** Kottur Taluka, Vijayanagara District pertaining to 220KV R/S Ittigi.

4. E-procurement Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent-161
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/14 Dtd:17.10.2023 for the work of Enhancement of 2x10 MVA, 110/11Kv Power Transformer by 2x20 MVA 110/11Kv Power Transformer at **110/11Kv Sub-station, Mylara** in Huvinahadagli Taluq, Vijayanagara District.

For all the above works including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "**e-Procurement-KPTCL" or directly logging on to** website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.10.2023 at 11:00Hrs.** details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, Ele, Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad - 583 233. Ph: 08539-270094.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone,
No.144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 560056.
No: EE/KEN/TEND/08/2023-24 Date: 18-10-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Approximate Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
	SINGLE COVER SYSTEM - CALL-2		
1	Maintenance of Borewells in Andrahalli, Lingadheeranahalli and Hosahalli Gollarapalya Village Limits in Ward No. 40, Doddabidarakallu (Comes under 110 Village Limits) For the year 2023-24 Stage-2. **(Others)**	**20.00**	**50,000/-**
2	Maintenance of Borewells in Herohalli and Gidadakonenahalli Village Limits in Ward No. 72, Herohalli (Comes under 110 Village Limits) For the year 2023-24 Stage-2. **(Others)**	**17.00**	**42,500/-**
	SINGLE COVER SYSTEM - CALL-3		
3	Drilling of 6 Nos. Borewells and Erection of Pump, Motor, Electrification and Providing New Pipeline at Venugopalanagara, Sapthagiri Layout, Shivaganga Layout, Mysore Lamp Layout, Andanappa Layout, Marranna Layout, Gangamahimaiha Badavane and Indiranagara at Doddabidarakallu Village Limits in Ward No. 40, Doddabidarakallu. **(Others)**	**50.00**	**1,25,000/-**
4	Drilling of 6 Nos. Borewells and Erection of Pump, Motor, Electrification and Providing New Pipeline at Pillanna Garden, SLN Enclave, Anupama School Visinity Nandagokula Badavane, Navilunagar, Balaji Layout at Karihobanahalli Village Limits in Ward No. 40, Doddabidarakallu. **(Others)**	**50.00**	**1,25,000/-**
5	Drilling of 3 Nos. Borewells and Erection of Pump, Motor, Electrification and Providing New Pipeline at Vigneshwara Nagara, Muneshwara Nagara, Nagarhole Nagara, Veerabhadreshwara Nagara and Javarayeegowda Layout and Herohalli Ward Limits in Ward No. 72, Herohalli. **(ST)**	**25.00**	**31,500/-**
6	Maintenance of Borewells in Doddabidrakallu and Karihobanahalli Village Limits in Ward No. 40, Doddabidarakallu (Comes under 110 Village Limits) **(Others)**	**30.00**	**75,000/-**
7	Maintenance of Borewells in Andrahalli, Lingadheeranahalli and Hosahalli Gollarapalya Village Limits in Ward No. 40, Doddabidarakallu (Comes under 110 Village Limits) **(Others)**	**30.00**	**75,000/-**
8	Maintenance of Borewells in Herohalli and Giddakonnenahalli Village Limits in Ward No. 72, Herohalli (Comes under 110 Village Limits) **(Others)**	**40.00**	**1,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 4.00 PM on 19-10-2023. 2)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **31-10-2023 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Bids: **02-11-2023 at 11.00 AM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP.

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INBRIEF

Arvind Kamath is Additional Solicitor General of India

The Centre has appointed Bengaluru-based senior advocate K. Arvind Kamath as Additional Solicitor General of India for the High Court of Karnataka. Mr. Kamath, who began his practice as an advocate in 1993, was designated as a Senior Advocate by the High Court in 2018. He had also served as Assistant Editor of the Indian Law Reports, Karnataka series.

Work on lab-to-land and land-to-lab concept: CM

Saying agricultural universities play a key role in increasing food production to cater the needs of growing population, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the research in the lab should reach the farmlands and the experience of farmers on the land should inform research. "Only then can we evolve sustainable agriculture," he said.

He was speaking at the Diploma Course for Accessory Dealers in Agriculture Extension Service (DAESI) Convention organised by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru on Wednesday. "Due to climate change, the State is continuously suffering from excessive rains and droughts. The help of agricultural experts and technicians is essential for farmers. Agricultural universities should do more research. Research findings should reach the farmers effectively. Extensive studies and research should be done about the kind of crops that can be grown in less rain and less water and ways to prevent crop damage due to extreme weather conditions should reach the farmers," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

ITI Ltd. expands testing abilities with new certification

ITI Ltd., Bengaluru-based public sector unit, that focuses on emerging telecom technologies, has significantly expanded the scope of testing at its EMC Lab (The Electromagnetic Compatibility Laboratory) here. It received an accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

ITI Ltd. will now be able to support manufacturers and product designers in the industrial, commercial, information technology, telecom and medical fields by detecting the slightest anomalies in the electromagnetic and electrical operations of their products and address compliance and market access challenges, as per a communique shared by the PSU. Rajesh Rai, Chairman & MD, ITI Ltd. said, "Our EMC Lab is one of its kind PSU lab in India, capable of meeting all global testing requirements in accordance with national/international standards as well as domestic/international original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) standards."

Sorake, Chandrashekar, Kulkarni in race for KPCC working president posts

Chief Minister's proposal to appoint Sorake is seen as a move to counter his political rival Hariprasad within the party

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

In an apparent attempt to snub senior Congress leader and MLC B.K. Hariprasad, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reportedly proposed to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge the name of former Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake to the post of working president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

Sources in the Congress said the Chief Minister and the party leaders were keen on replacing some of the incumbent working presidents, including Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi and former MP B.N. Chandrappa, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Mr. Jarkiholi and Mr. Chandrappa are likely to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Belagavi and Chitradurga constituencies, respectively.

Mr. Sorake told *The Hindu* the Chief Minister and other party leaders promised him the working president's post of the KPCC.

Mr. Sorake's name was proposed by Mr. Siddaramaiah as the latter wants to counter his political rival Mr. Hariprasad within the party, sources claimed.

B.K. Hariprasad

Vinay Kumar Sorake

From coastal region

Mr. Sorake, who belonges to the Ediga community and hails from the coastal part of the State, worked under Mr. Siddaramaiah during his first term as the Chief Minister and was loyal to him. Moreover, no leader from the coastal districts has been appointed to the top KPCC post in the recent past.

Mr. Hariprasad also belongs to the Ediga community and has roots in the coastal districts. The former MP recently made some veiled attacks against the CM and expressed his disappointment on the functioning of the State government.

Currently, there are five working presidents – Ramalinga Reddy, Satish Jarkiholi and Eshwar Khandre (Ministers), Salim Ahmed, MLC, and Mr. Chandrappa.

A leader in the party said it is planning to appoint new working presidents for KPCC by replacing incumbents, especially those who are serving as Ministers in the government. The leader said names of Rajya Sabha member G.C. Chandrashekar, a Vokkaliga, and Vinay Kulkarni, a Veerashaiva Lingayat, belonging to Panchamasali sect, are also doing rounds for the post of the working presidents. The name of former MLA Anjali Nimbalkar is also being cited under the women's quota.

Winnable candidates

Sources said KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has appointed 28 Ministers as observers in each of Lok Sabha constituencies in the State for identifying winnable candidates in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Ministers are expected to submit their reports in the next few days. Based on the reports, the party is likely to ask incumbent working presidents to step down.

Will consider providing 2% quota for sportspersons in all govt. jobs: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised to explore the possibility of providing 2% reservation for sportspersons in all government departments in the State. Currently, 3% reservation is being given to sportspersons in the Police and Forest departments.

On Wednesday, he felicitated and presented cash awards to athletes and coaches of Karnataka who won medals in the recently held 19th Asian Games in China.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah felicitating athletes and coaches of Karnataka who won medals in the recently held 19th Asian Games in China, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Those felicitated were: Rajeshwari Gaikwad, Rohan Bopanna, Mijo Chacko Kurien, Nihal Joel, Mithun Manjunath, Sai Prateek, and Divya – all athletes, and coaches V. Tejaswini Bai, Ankita B.S., and C.A. Kuttappa.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the sportspersons had brought honour to India and Karnataka. "It is a matter of pride for all Kannadigas. Indian athletes have won maximum number of medals in the Asian Games this time." He pointed out that 70 medals were won last time, and this time the number has gone up to 107.

The Chief Minister said that the government was committed to promoting sports. During his previous tenure as Chief Minister, prize money was announced to winners in Asian Games and the Olympics. He said that Karnataka was the first State to announce the highest prize amount.

He congratulated the sportspersons on behalf of the government and seven crore Kannadigas. "Winning a medal at the international level is no small feat. It requires a lot of effort. You have done an amazing job."

HC quashes wildlife law violation case against Horticulture Minister over serious 'procedural lapses'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed criminal cases registered against Mines and Geology, and Horticulture Minister S.S. Mallikarjun, his brother and others last year for allegedly violating the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for keeping wild animals like blackbuck, spotted deer, wild boars, mongoose and jackals at their farmhouse in Davangere.

The court said that the entire proceedings against the accused must be obliterated for glaring procedural aberrations as the forest officers and the police had committed incurable illegalities from the stage of the registration of the cases.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by Mr. Mallikarjun and his brother S.S. Ganesh, and two others, Sampanna Mutalik and Karibasappa G.M. The petitioners had questioned the legality of registration of the cases as well the cognisance of offences taken by a magistrate court in Davangere.

The CCB, Bengaluru, and the Forest Department officials had registered the cases after recovery of deer skin from one Senthil in Bengaluru during December 2022. As Senthil had disclosed the location from where he had brought animal skin, the CCB and the Forest officials had searched the farmhouse belonging to Mr. Mallikarjun and rescued 10 blackbuck, seven spotted deer, seven wild boars, three mongoose and two jackals.

However, the HC said that the police and the forest officials had given a 'complete go-by' to the procedures laid down in the Wildlife Crime Investigation Handbook, which is a complete code from registration of the crime till the investigation for the offences invoked against the accused persons under the WP Act. Also, the High Court found that the magistrate court too had committed lapses in taking cognisance twice and ordering investigation based on complaints filed by the forest official.

'Incurable illegalities'

"...finding no procedure or the procedure completely topsy-turvy in the cases at hand would mean that the entire proceedings need to be obliterated as glaring procedure aberrations noticed cannot be countenanced and further proceedings cannot be permitted to continue by a fiat of this court as they are all incurable illegalities cutting at the root of the matter and become an abuse of the process of the law," the High Court observed.

Govt. mulls over transferring 26 programmes from Education Department to RDPR Dept.

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

These programmes include identifying out-of-school children, maintenance of teachers' attendance, appointment of guest teachers and midday meal workers, distribution of shoes and socks, and infrastructure development

The Karnataka government is planning to transfer 26 programmes currently vested with the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RDPR).

These programmes include identifying out-of-school children, maintenance of teachers' attendance, appointment of guest teachers and midday meal workers, distribution of shoes and socks, and infrastructure development.

According to the proposal, all the programmes will be distributed between gram panchayats, taluk panchayats, and zilla panchayats. This, the government says, is part of the effort at decentralising power and making education more vibrant from the gram panchayat level. Based on the proposal submitted by the RDPR Department, the DSEL has held a few meetings with officials in this regard.

However, various teachers' associations have opposed this and they allege that the local bodies may harass teachers and staff in the name of decentralization of programmes and they may face political pressure. The Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association has submitted a proposal to the Principal Secretary of the DSEL and requested that programmes not be transferred to the RDPR Department.

Speaking with *The Hindu*, Chandrashekara Nuggali, general secretary of the association, said, "It is unscientific that DSEL wants to transfer some of its programmes to the RDPR Department and it will affect teachers. It will lead to political intervention in the schools at panchyat levels. Government school teachers should not be harassed in the name decentralisation of programmes. Therefore, the government should reject the proposal."

Final yet to be taken

Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principle Secretary, of the DSEL, said that the proposal is currently at the level of discussion.

"The Education Department activities come under the control of zilla panchayats at the district level. But discussions are on as to whether those programmes which come under zilla panchayat should be given to the control of gram panchayats. But, a final call has not been taken yet," he said.

Video of Sugar Minister surrounded by currency notes at wedding goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shivanand Patil

A visual of Minister for Sugar Shivananda Patil sitting on a sofa with currency notes strewn around at a gathering, as people throw money in the air, has gone viral on social media and attracted attacks from the Opposition BJP. The footage was apparently captured at a wedding in Hyderabad which Mr. Patil attended some days ago.

"Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil has given a real show of how the Ministers are enjoying the money looted from the people of the State," the Karnataka BJP posted on X, formerly Twitter. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also took to X and said, "Looting public money is the goal of the Congress, and the will to serve the public is not in its DNA!" The video is said to be from three days ago when Mr. Patil was attending the wedding of the son of Kalaburagi Congress leader in Hyderabad. Mr. Patil told the media that he only attended the marriage of the son of his friend and that he had nothing to do with the cash being flung in the air.

A few months ago, Mr. Patil was involved in a row when he said farmer suicides had increased in Karnataka after the State government had hiked compensation. Later, the Minister said he did not intend to hurt the sentiments of the farmers.

Now, BJP seeks ED probe into alleged corruption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after demanding a CBI probe into the episode of seizure of unaccounted money during IT raids in Bengaluru, the Opposition BJP on Wednesday demanded that Enforcement Directorate should also look into the episode of alleged corruption.

Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru on Wednesday, BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had ignored the interests of Karnataka in the political tussle between them.

"Mr. Shivakumar is trying to snatch the post of CM from Mr. Siddaramaiah. Similarly, Mr. Siddaramaiah is trying to send Mr. Shivakumar to jail," he alleged.

cmpdi A Miniratna Company
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in.**"

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.
Roc.No. 8015 /A&A/RIGHTS/2023 TENDER NOTICE Dated: 18.10.2023

Bids are invited from potential Bidders for Supply of Vehicle Chassis for Mobile Outreach and Provide therapy service to differently abled persons through e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department **website - www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender **website-tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Director for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 5677 /TENDER/2023
Project Director – RIGHTS / Director for Welfare the Differently Abled

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ଭବ୍ରପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287)
At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/68-2023-24/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 68-2023-24/ BPR	Bridge Works (BSY) for 2023-24	02 Nos	From Rs.186.10 Lakhs to Rs.368.41 Lakhs	"B" Class & "A" Class as applicable	06 (Six) & 11 (Eleven) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender /68-2023-24/BPR	26.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	09.11.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1315 : OIPR-25071/11/0072/2324

Glimpses of Mysuru's royal Dasara in Bengaluru

The ongoing show in the city has on display rare photographs of the Dasara celebrations taken by Mysuru's veteran photographer K.V. Subba Rao

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Dasara is here, and the festivities have begun across Bengaluru. Though popular in the city of Mysuru, Bengaluru is no less when it comes to celebrating the Nada habba. With unique dolls set up at homes to huge events like Garba nights, Bengaluru is celebrating the festivity with fervor.

Amidst the colourful programmes, the India Institute of World Culture (IIWC), along with Maya Films and Maharaja Shri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Foundation, has organised an exhibition of unseen photographs of the Royal Dasara by Mysuru's veteran photographer K.V. Subba Rao and exclusive glimpses from the royal family's collection. On its opening day, the event was attended by Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar and Indrakshi Devi Wadiyar, daughters of Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar.

The exhibition has been conceptualised and curated by Maya Chandra, the founder and director of Maya Films. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Maya said this event is the first of its kind. "We have a group called Basavanagudi Heritage Group that is looking after many of the issues of heritage in the area. Much of our culture and heritage is waning, and the whole idea was to bring back the culture and glory of the royal Dasara and to bring people together to celebrate the spirit of the festivity as a community."

Some of the photographs on display at an exhibition organised by the India Institute of World Culture, along with Maya Films and Maharaja Shri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Foundation, in Bengaluru; and (bottom left) members of the erstwhile royal family at the event.

Younger generation

"In the photo exhibition, we did not just want to showcase pictures of the festivity in Mysuru but wanted to bring back glimpses of the royal Dasara from the days when the Maharajas of Mysuru would sit on the golden howdah. Today's generation has not witnessed this kind of Dasara. Whatever they are witnessing now is available on any digital platform, but we wanted to make this an exclusive event, which is why we have installed unseen pictures clicked by Subba Rao."

She was introduced to Subba Rao when she was documenting a podcast on the celebrations of Dasara inside the palace, which is restricted only to the family. "We came across pictures clicked by Subba Rao, and he very willingly shared photographs of Dasara. We got whatever was available and easily sourceable, as much of his work was lost in a fire accident. So, whatever displayed here are exclusive photographs by him," Maya added.

Ninety-three-year-old Subba Rao was a professional photographer for close to five decades, closely photographing the Wadiyars and the royal events in Mysuru till he hung up his boots. Subba Rao's studio Photo Flash, established in 1950 on Dhanvantri Road, Mysuru, was known to be one of the most popular studios in the city back then. Subba Rao had the privilege of witnessing and covering the Dasara festival for 30 years, with Wadiyars, the erstwhile rulers of Mysuru leading the annual celebration back then.

Says Subba Rao, "I am very honoured that my photographs are being presented at this exhibition. Even at the age of 93, I am being recognised through my work, which is very overwhelming. I photographed for 52 years, out of which I spent 30 years of my career photographing the royal family."

A 30-year association

"Photographing the Maharaja of Mysore and his family is a lifetime experience that any photographer would want to have. I was fortunate enough to get this opportunity. In the three decades that I photographed the Royal Dasara, I was one among the lucky people who could get close to the elephants, the procession, and other important things related to the palace, and photograph the royal festivity closely," says the nonegenarian.

But he has also been punished for clicking some photographs.

"There is one very close photo of the then Maharaja, Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, in royal attire, on horseback. The Maharaja is seen saluting during the Torchlight Parade that marks the culmination of Dasara at Bannimantap ground. I was able to get so close to the Maharaja because one of my friends pushed me to the ground and asked me to click the picture. But I was immediately caught by the police. Even though it was a great experience, the consequences after that evening were bad. It took me 15 days to get out of that situation. Remembering it, I laugh now, but as a young photographer back then, all of this was really very overwhelming," Subba Rao says.

He is also known to photograph personalities like Lord Mountbatten, M. Visvesvaraya, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, among scores of others.

(The exhibition is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. till October 25, at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi.)

Women of Basavanagudi exhibit their talent

The ongoing exhibition at the India Institute of World Culture also has on show dolls, sculptures, soap carvings, and paintings.

"We wanted women in and around Basavanagudi to come in and exhibit their dolls. For many people, it may not be easy to set up dolls in their own homes.

"We got many applications from women who had wonderful setups, but we shortlisted it to five women, Dr. Rashmi Krishna, Bharathi Vishwanath, Vasanthi Sheshadri, Sheela Madhusudan and Sudha Nagaraj," says Maya.

"There is also a setup of beautiful and detailed soap sculptures curated by another talented lady, Chinmai Sharma. Her father, N.S. Sheshadri used to sculpt soap. As a tribute to her father, she has displayed his sculptures. Another huge doll of a Devi by artist Meera Kumar, along with five of her Mysuru art paintings, are also displayed in the exhibition. The beauty of the exhibition is the contribution of all these talented artists. The exhibition's motive is to bring people together, and we have achieved it," Maya added.

Why better wastewater management could help solve Bengaluru's water crisis

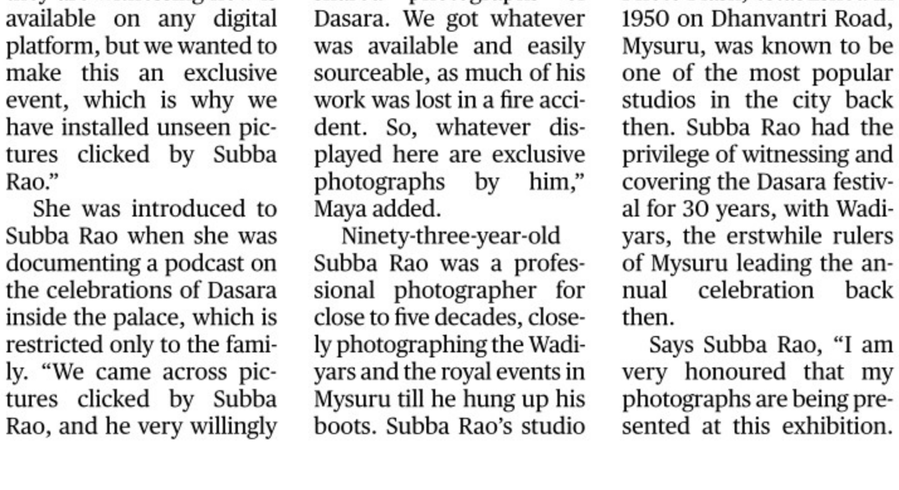
'The solutions are available, but change at the individual, family and community level needs to happen'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If the thought of using sewage water to garden your plants or flush your toilet makes you shudder, you are probably not alone. "There is a term called the yuck factor, and the term is there globally," says Dr. Veena Srinivasan, the executive director of WELL Labs, a Bengaluru-based research and innovation centre for water management.

And yet, getting over this yuck factor is an important aspect of creating more sustainable water systems, as the recently concluded conference titled *Building Water-Resilient Cities: Strategies for Wastewater Reuse in Urban India* reiterated.

"There's a psychological block," agrees B.P. Ravi, IFS, Principal Secretary, Forests and Ecology, Government of Karnataka, who delivered the welcome address at this conference, a collaboration between WELL Labs, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) and Bangalore Apartments Federation.



Shreya Nath, Aditya Rao, Mahesh T., Inayathulla M., M. Selvarasu, and Shubha Avinash at a panel discussion focusing on various facets of effective wastewater management. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But he also indicated that we may soon have no other choice. "We are pumping water every day. About 1,500 million litres of water per, using energy against gravity," says Mr. Ravi, adding that this is simply unsustainable in the long run. "The solutions are available, (but) change at the individual, family and community level needs to happen."

Contradictions

"Bengaluru's water problems may be contradictory," states the executive summary of a report titled *How Water Flows Through Bengaluru: Urban Water Balance Report,* which was released at the conference. While this fast-expanding city, prone to drought and flooding, is getting increasingly dependent on groundwater, a fast-depleting resource, "the amount of wastewater treated by centralised infrastructure remains low". A decentralised wastewater treatment policy could be the way forward, going by Dr. Srinivasan's comment at the launch of this report.

'The amount of wastewater treated by centralised infrastructure remains low'

"Bangalore is unique for having a decentralised policy. If we're able to make this a success, the city can show the rest of the world how to establish a circular water economy," she states, adding that the point of the report was this: to think about the city's water in an integrated fashion.

Panel discussions

The release of the report was followed by a series of panel discussions focusing on various facets of effective wastewater management.

From a session on planning and implementing effective wastewater strategy to others focusing on its economics, the standards and regulations around it, and potential business models, the conference drew on the knowledge of a number of eminent Indian and international experts.

A few of them were Eli Cohen, the CEO of Ayala Water and Ecology; Anant Kodavasal, the founder and director of Ecotech Engineering; Mr. V. Ramprasad, the founder of Friends of Lakes, Bengaluru; Mahesh T., the chief environmental officer at the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and Dr. Christian Binz who is associated with Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology.

What was clear by the end of the conference – which also delved into the problems posed by non-functioning STPS, the need for wholehearted community participation, accountability, and the role of government agencies, policy and law – was this. "None of these things can be solved by incremental change," as Dr Srinivasan points out. "You need an entire system."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 19, 1973

Mysore Corpn. to Make Bulk Purchases of Pulses

BANGALORE, Oct. 18: The newly constituted Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation would also make bulk purchases of pulses and groundnut. In addition to its main function of handling the Government's procurement drive covering paddy, jowar and ragi, the Chief minister Mr. D. Devraj Urs told the State Legislative Council to-day.

Initiating the food debate in the House, the Chief Minister said that everybody experienced wide price fluctuations in cereals and pulses and accompanied by shortages.

Hegde-Urs Exchanges

BANGALORE, Oct. 18: The Legislative Council to-day witnessed lively exchanges between the Chief Minister Mr. Devraj Urs and the leader of opposition Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, over the quality of foodgrains distributed through fair prices shops.

Speaking on the food situation in the State, Mr. Hegde exhibited in the House samples of jowar said to have been distributed in Dharwar district and samples of rice sold in a fair price shop in Jayanagar in the city.

Mr. Hegde questioned how such poor-quality food grains were being distributed and asked the Chief Minister to take them to his house. He also showed the House stunted stalks of jowar grown in Belgaum district using the fertilizers supplied by the Government. As Mr. Hegde was showing the House the stalks of jowar the Chief Minister remarked that Mr. Hegde was acting like a "magician". Mr. Hegde retorted that "he would have done better things if he were a magician".

Pottery's powerful pull

Bengaluru's pottery community is multiplying at great speed, thanks to a vast network of studios, modern equipment, enthusiastic learners

Bhumika K

Getting handsy Various stages of pottery classes in the city, (below) Swathi Rao at the wheel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Some view it as meditation. Some do it for fun. Some find it therapeutic. Others transition to it as a profession. Whatever the intent or end result, there is no denying that Bengaluru's pottery community has been thriving in the last five years. Almost every locality now houses a pottery studio or class.

COVID-19 was one of the factors that is believed to have triggered the interest in pottery. Many owners of pottery studios in the city say people started taking hobbies seriously after the pandemic.

Whether it is hand-building and working with tools, throwing clay on the wheel, getting pieces fired in the kiln or learning to glaze them, the city has slowly built the expertise and infrastructure so that all these bases are covered. Today, you can hire a modern potter's wheel at home, rent studio spaces by the hour to practice , take your finished works to studios to be fired in professional kilns, or if you have the means, set up a full-fledged studio at home.

Most studios offer courses of different levels – beginners, intermediate and advanced. What is rather popular is the two-hour "experiential" sessions, which appeal to all age groups and are are often gifted to family and friends.

Swathi Rao, who has been running Artfully Yours in HRBR Layout since 2016, observes how a lot of parents are now turning to pottery for their children with special needs – whether they are on the spectrum or have learning disabilities. On one hand, clay is a very primal element, and on the other, learning to throw clay on a wheel and spin it is scientific. She explains why clay and pottery work wonders for many.

"Pottery is a sensorial activity that helps these children. Clay in itself is a forgiving medium and a major confidence booster for children because you can easily undo your mistakes. It's an open-ended medium and not intimidating. Children can connect to the medium from their perspective." Swati has also worked with dementia patients, who have taken to this medium well.

Anupama Bhat, 44, an electrical engineer and former lecturer, details her pottery journey from her student days. She had her first experience with clay in 2007, when she was in the US studying for her Masters. Ever since, her love for clay and pottery has only grown. Around 2015, she bought herself a potter's wheel and soon after, began refining her skills at the Mud Effects Pottery Studio in Whitefield.

"During the lockdowns, I started making functional ware and home décor items – bowls, cups, mugs and trinkets. A few months ago, I hit a plateau, so now I'm experimenting with glazed miniatures," says Anupama, who has now created her label "clayforu".

Social media, especially Instagram, has also played a large role in promoting a curiosity about pottery, observes Kanchana Chandrasekaran, Director of Clay Station Art Studio in Koramangala. It was Bengaluru's first modern pottery studio set up way back in 2009 by Kanchana's husband Ganesh Manickavasagam to understand clay as a medium. From starting off as a training facility, today they manufacture clay, consult internationally to set up studios, and have tied up with suppliers worldwide to source the best pottery infrastructure in India.

Kanchana says there is a whole range of demographics interested in pottery – from IT professionals and homemakers, to architects and designers. "With the concept of art in education picking up, several schools in the city are introducing pottery in their curriculum," says Kanchana. "It is also a viable profession now," she adds.

On an average, at least 50 people are learning from Clay Station every month, across various kinds of workshops and courses. They even have an "arangetram" for intermediary level students to exhibit and sell their works.

Unable to deal with the stress in his corporate career, Balakrishna Vallepu took some time off and found himself in Goa, learning pottery at Banana Pottery under the mentorship of Thomas Louis (visiting professor at NID, Ahmedabad) for over six months. What began as a curiosity, turned into passion and led to the birth of his studio Yogam Pottery in Yelahanka New Town in 2018.

"I was curious about clay when I started, but stayed on to become a potter because I fell in love with the versatility of clay. The pursuit of beauty is an important focus in everything I do."During the pandemic, he found a lot of takers for online pottery wheel workshops where he would send the wheel and materials to the students' home and teach online, or teach people who had wheels at home, online.

Clay is also a medium where you need to be mindful. The growing consciousness among people of mindfulness practices has also prompted the popularity of pottery. It is one of the reasons Swathi mostly does one-on-one teaching sessions and not batches, in order to "maintain a calm energy".

"Otherwise people tend to become too competitive; you only need to compete with yourself and better yourself." She is currently learning a practitioners' course on how clay can be used for well-being.

Pottering around

- Anyone can work with clay at the beginner's level, even without prior experience
- A one-time, two-hour pottery experience begins from ₹2,000 upwards
- Constructing, testing for elasticity, pinching, coiling, and making slabs are some of the techniques used in pottery; these are techniques we also use in cooking, without realising it.
- There are many forms and tools of pottery — using hands, simple pottery tools, wheel, casting using jigger-jollies and moulds etc. It is best, however, to start with hand building.
- Studios advise beginners not to fire their pieces because the clay then cannot be re-claimed and reused. It is a sustainable practice.
- A basic firing kiln starts upwards of ₹1.5 lakhs. A potter's wheel starts at around ₹10,000 and can go up to ₹85,000 based on several features. Good clay can come at price range starting from ₹500. A basic hand-building tool set can cost around ₹5,000.
- Studios advise beginners to first try their hand, figure out how serious they are, practice in rentable studio spaces, and only then invest in equipment for a home setup.

(Inputs from people interviewed in the story)

CITYBEATS

Dandiya, art and more

ON TILL OCTOBER 23
Navratri is incomplete without the garba and Lahe Lahe is celebrating Navaratri with this very form of dance at an event called Dandiya Night. Alongside there will be an exhibition – Navakalpana – featuring artworks by nine women artists.
At Lahe Lahe. Whatsapp 9886294444, tickets on Townscript/BookMyShow. Entry free

Poems for the everyday

OCTOBER 20, 5.30PM
Atta Galatta will present *Let Poetry Be* – an English language poetry open mic night. This month's theme is 'Everyday. Beautiful,' with Poorva, a poet and educator. She believes in the "magic of words and that poetry exists in every corner of life."
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar

Tune in

OCTOBER 20 AND 21, 9.30PM
Listen to the island music of Cabo Verde by Miroca Paris. The singer/guitarist/percussionist will be joined by Thierry Jean Pierre on bass, Jery Cumba on guitar and Cau Paris on drums. Tickets are priced at ₹1000 plus taxes per person and (standing) ₹499.
At Windmills, Whitefield

Fun with words Ankit and the magazine cover. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Learn to write spooky stuff

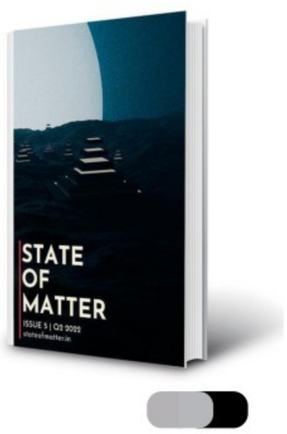
Are you such a huge fan of horror stories that you dream of not just reading such books, but also writing one?

If your answer is an emphatic yes, then Atta Galatta should be your destination this weekend.

Atta Galatta is organising a horror-story writing workshop called *Ghosting 101*.

From the magazine that brought you *A Thousand Tomorrows*, there is a new writing workshop, this time for horror.

Gear up for a scary Halloween with Ghosting 101, two four-hour workshop sessions dedicated to writing horror, conducted by State of Matter, a South Asian speculative fiction magazine. These interactive workshops will introduce writers to horror as a speculative genre, and will mostly be geared toward writing scenes and short fiction.



At the first workshop on October 22, there will be a discussion on how to evoke fear, moving from a vague thought that sticks with you and causes your heart to flutter, to developing it into a story schematic and scene.

In the second workshop, there will be a discussion on the elements of horror, taking a schematic and fleshing it out into horror that is lived in, not just thought of. These sessions can be attended in sequence or independently.

This workshop is suitable for writers who are either new writing or horror writing. Those who are open to spending a couple of afternoons doing something creative or those who want to spook their friends with the dreadful stories of horrific monsters and haunted houses are welcome to join in.

This writing workshop is on October 22 and 29 between 2 pm and 6 pm at Atta Galatta. Registration link - https://forms.gle/rYDZuKXGzWmgMiai6

Portraits of women in transition

Ruth Dhanaraj

"I have always been fascinated by the women I have met in Bangalore; there is something remarkable about the way they balance both the modern and traditional ways of life," says artist Olympe Ramakrishnan.

The French national who has made Bengaluru her home after her wedding, says most of her works are themed around femininity and identity. "However, right from the outset, I knew I wanted this project to be an installation," she says, talking about Women of Bangalore.

Olympe says the series comprises 12 portraits of 11 different women (the twelfth being a self portrait), who according to her straddle tradition and modernity in their daily lives. "These images are modelled on women I know and each piece has been named after them. The 11 women I chose are women I know quite well – they are my neighbours and friends and what they all had in common was the way they kept their stance in a rapidly changing world."

"They keep alive traditions and at the same time, keep up with the demands of everyday life. I have always been captivated by how this new generation balances both worlds; that has been the main topic of this project," she adds.

Olympe who grew up in a family of artists, says her medium of choice has always been oils, with an occasional dab at acrylics. For this series, she created regular canvases using oil paints. "Then, I took photographs of them and had them printed on white silk panels which were the length of a sari. I wanted each piece to gently hang from the ceiling," she says, adding that she had to enroll the services of an industrial sari printer for her work.

"This project took me roughly two years from start to finish; I spent approximately two months on each portrait for the research, sketching and painting."

Inspiration all around Olympe Ramakrishnan and her works. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Though Olympe has created a set of canvases for this series, only the digital panels are on display. On the conclusion of its showing in the city, Women of Bangalore will be exhibited in France in January.

Olympe who is equally inspired by French and Indian artists says she tries to replicate their styles in her work. "I admire the works of Gaugin, Ingres and Redoute, Amrita Sher Gil and Mughal miniatures, as well as botanical art."

Women of Bangalore by Olympe Ramakrishna will be on display at the Alliance Francaise of Bangalore till October 29. Entry free

KCR says Cong. will end key schemes if voted to power

CM says BRS govt. has waived farm loans totalling ₹37,000 crore; Congress is likely to end schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu and 24-hour free electricity supply for farmers, says Rao

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi president K Chandrasekhar Rao on Wednesday alleged that if the Congress comes to power after the Assembly elections in the State, they will discontinue schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu and 24-hour free electricity supply to farmers.

Addressing a rally at Jadcherla, Mr. Rao charged that Congress leaders filed false cases when the BRS government took up various irrigation projects, aiming to provide water facilities to undivided Mahabubnagar district.

BRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at a public rally in Telangana on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The BRS government has waived farm loans worth ₹37,000 crore. We did this during the previous term (2014) and also this time (2018)... if we struggle for another decade, Telangana farmers will become great in the Indian farming community," he said.

Mr. Rao alleged that before coming to power in Karnataka the Congress had promised it would ensure uninterrupted electricity supply for 20 hours to farmers but now say that they will be able to supply power for only five hours.

At Medchal, Mr. Rao promised allocation of special funds in the Budget for the development of peripheral Assembly constituencies of Hyderabad as people from across the country come to the city in search of livelihood.

(With inputs from the Hindu Bureau)

Will implement all poll promises in Telangana: Rahul

P Sridhar
MULUGU

Dubbing the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana as the BJP's 'B' team, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called upon the people of Telangana to vote for the Congress, in the November 30 Assembly election. He also called the ruling party "corruption-ridden".

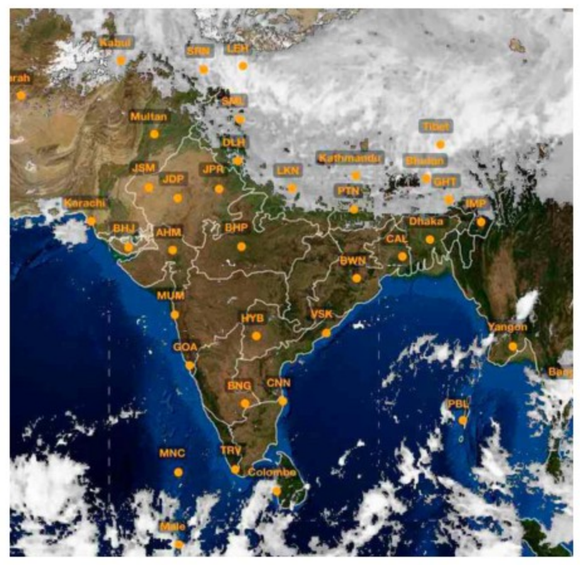
The BRS dispensation here is being "remotely controlled" by the Narendra Modi regime at the Centre and both the parties along with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) are working together to defeat the Congress, he charged while addressing a huge public meeting held in Telangana's tribal heartland of Mulugu on Wednesday.

Mr. Gandhi addressed the election meeting flanked by his sister and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and a host of State Congress leaders.

Reaffirming the Congress's six guarantees, he said, "We have implemented whatever we promised in States such as Karnataka. We will implement all the guarantees including ₹2,500 per month for women, gas cylinder at ₹500, and 200-unit free power to households."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Squally weather likely over south-east & adjoining central and southwest Arabian Sea, along & off Kerala coast and southwest Bay of Bengal along & off Tamil Nadu coast

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.2	22.8	Kozhikode	6	33.5	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	35.6	22.6	Kurnool	—	36.8	24.1
Aizawl	—	32.6	17.2	Lucknow	0.6	31.2	19.0
Allahabad	—	33.3	19.4	Madurai	0.2	32.6	24.0
Bengaluru	—	30.0	18.6	Mangaluru	0.1	31.3	24.1
Bhopal	—	34.9	20.1	Mumbai	—	36.4	26.8
Bhubaneswar	—	33.3	23.5	Mysuru	8	32.5	23.6
Chandigarh	—	30.8	16.0	New Delhi	—	31.0	17.3
Chennai	—	33.5	25.1	Patna	—	31.8	21.4
Coimbatore	—	32.8	23.8	Port Blair	0.4	31.8	25.8
Dehradun	—	29.2	13.2	Puducherry	—	34.1	24.8
Gangtok	0.5	20.1	12.9	Pune	—	34.3	31.2
Goa	—	33.0	23.8	Raipur	—	33.0	22.7
Guwahati	—	33.0	21.8	Ranchi	—	29.6	20.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Shillong	—	23.1	13.0
Hyderabad	—	33.4	20.7	Shimla	0.1	22.0	10.6
Imphal	—	30.1	16.0	Srinagar	4	16.8	7.8
Jaipur	—	31.1	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	36	31.0	24.4
Kochi	30	30.2	25.4	Tiruchi	—	32.1	24.4
Kohima	—	—	13.1	Vijayawada	—	33.6	25.5
Kolkata	—	32.6	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.5	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	100	.44	84	113	
Bengaluru	.11	—	.54	125	164	
Chennai	5	.22	.65	230	138	
Delhi	—	.23	105	179	169	
Hyderabad	6	.25	.47	154	151	
Kolkata	5	.37	.14	210	147	
Lucknow	4	.16	.44	65	61	
Mumbai	.14	.38	—	192	425	
Pune	133	225	106	194	120	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	.46	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 270 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Hundreds of UDF protesters lay siege to Kerala Secretariat

The United Democratic Front (UDF) workers laid siege to the Kerala Secretariat on Wednesday, accusing the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government of corruption, nepotism and financial maladministration. The protest that drew hundreds of Congress workers from across the State marked the commencement of the Opposition's campaign against the government in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

No decorations on pilgrim vehicles to Sabarimala: HC

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Ahead of the Makaravilakku season, HC issues norms for vehicles carrying pilgrims

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has observed that vehicles, including Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses, decorated with flowers and leaves cannot be allowed for carrying Sabarimala pilgrims or any other passengers during the Mandalam-Makaravilakku season.

The Bench of Justice Anil K. Narendran and Justice Sophy Thomas passed the order recently when a *suo motu* case relating to the action plans being made by the Travancore Devaswom Board State government and the police for the ensuing season came up for hearing.

The court said light motor vehicles with a seating capacity of up to 15, carrying Sabarimala pilgrims, shall be permitted to enter up to Pampa for dropping the pilgrims. The drivers concerned should take back the vehicles to Nilackal for parking immediately after dropping the pilgrims. When the pilgrims reach Pampa after darshan, the drivers concerned would be permitted to re-enter to bring back the pilgrims. Permission would not be granted to park vehicles by the roadside from Nilackal to Pampa.

The court observed that a sufficient number of police personnel shall be deployed at Pampa for verification of Virtual Q tickets.

T.N. fishermen attacked mid-sea

The Hindu Bureau
NAGAPATTINAM

Nine fishermen of Nagapattinam district were attacked mid-sea and robbed of their belongings on Tuesday. This is the sixth such incident since August.

Police said N. Subramanian, 50, A. Murugesan, 41, A. Sundaramoorthy, 55, C. Rajagopal, 62, and S. Mahalingam, 60, of Vanavanmahadevi, near Vedaranyam, had put out to sea on a fibreglass boat in the afternoon. When they were fishing about 11 nautical miles off Kodiyakkarai, four persons, suspected to be Sri Lankans who spoke Tamil, intercepted their boat.

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029. Tel: 080-25536789 / 26096834
Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No.KMF/ENGG/CFP-SHRPURA/UPGRADATION OF SCADA/2023-24, Date: 11.10.2023.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two cover System] [Through e-procurement Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through e-procurement portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and eligible firms may participate in the tender by logging on to web site www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in & also contact Help desk No.-080 23010900/23010901 E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Period
1	Upgradation of SCADA system software for Batching section and supply of Computers and IPC for CFP, Shikaripura.	1 Job	50,000/-	4 Months

1) Tenders may be downloaded from dated 19.10.2023 to 03.11.2023 up to 4-00 PM. 2) Last date for Tender submission on 04.11.2023 up to 4.00 pm. 3) Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 06.11.2023 at 11:30 AM. Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on e-procurement portal only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg., Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Tele No: 080-22537519

CORRIGENDUM

BMTC had invited SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER through E-Procurement Portal for Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 320 Nos. low floor, 400mm floor height City type AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model vide TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/SE0152 Dated: 17.10.2023 to be read as TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/SE0153 Dated: 18.10.2023 and there will be no other changes in the notification.

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Tumakuru District, Tumakuru. Telephone no.0816-2955247
E-Mail: dudc_tkr@yahoo.co.in
No:DUDC/TECH/CR/ 70/2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023

Tender Notification

The Project Director, DUDC, Tumkur District, Tumkur invites tenders through e-procurement in two cover system from the eligible bidders for the following work **Work Name: 1.** Supply, Erection, Repair & Servicing and Replacement of Transformer, Switch gear and Starter and pumpset along with accessories at Ballapura Pump House (Near Hemavathi Canal) for Madhugiri TMC & Koratagere TP Water supply (INDENTNo:DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT4371/CALL-2) Tender put Amount **(Rs. In Lakhs): 123.07** Bidders can obtain information of tenders through e-Procurement portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1. Period of downloading Tender Documents from E-procurement portal : 13.10.2023 to 21.10.2023 upto 17.30 hours. 2. Last Date for submission of tenders : 21.10.2023 upto 17.30 hours 3. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 25.10.2023 11.00 hrs at DUDC, Tumakuru. Postponement of calendar of events and addendum (if any) will be notified only in e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell, DC Office, Tumakuru.
DIPR/TUM/257/MCA/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner office,
(District Urban Development Cell) Haveri Dist,
Haveri-581110 Phone No : 08375-249097
e-mail : eedudchaver@gmail.com
No:3rd party & Indira Canteen/dudc/23-23 Dated : 16-10-2023

Short Term Tender Notification

The Project Director, District Urban Developement Cell Haveri District invites e-tender for, registered Agency for Indent Number dma/2023-24/SE0348/CALL-2 & Indent Number : DMA/2023-24/SE0773/CALL-2 Interested Agency can download the tender documents from the e-procurement Portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Project Diector
District Urban Development
DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/272/2023-24 **Cell Haveri Disteict Haveri**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BHADRA GENERATING STATION)
CIN No: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK _INDENT665 Date:10.10.2023

ABSTRACT "e" TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Bids in two covers are invited through "e" Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for **"Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Various Sizes Cooling water Valves at Bhadra Generating Station** from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar works. EMD: **Rs. 33,925/-** Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **25.10.2023 up to 16:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) Bhadra.** Bhadra Generating Station, KPCL, B R. Project-577 115, Bhadravathi Tq. Shimoga Dist. Karnataka.

DISTRICT PROJECT CORDONATORE SAMAGRA SHIKASHAN KARANATAKA CHIKKODI
Ref : SSK/TENDER/DIST/BLOCK/ MANPOWER/2023-24 DATE:12/10/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCURMENT TENDER)

Samagra Shikshan Karnataka Education Program Scheme, District and Block Level "Junior Computer Programmer, Data Entry Operator Sector Account Assistants and "D" Group & Jawans" has invited short-term tender application through e-procurement from registered organizations in double-envelope format through Outsourcing Resource Agency. For more details visit e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. And can be contacted during office hours. (Tel No : 08338-272769)
Tender Name & Date:No. SSK/MANPOWER/CKD/2023-24 /CALL-2, Last Date of Tender:DATE: 27/10/2023 Evening : 5.00 clock,Technical Bid Open Date & time:DATE:30/10/2023 Evening : 5.30 clock,Financial Bid Open Date & time:DATE:31/10/2023 Evening:5.30 clock, Tender Value:Rs. 97.56.00 lakh,EMD Value:Rs.2,43,889/-, Kindly Any Further Information Contact Person:Shri Mohankumar Hanchate (DPO SSK SAMAGRA SHIKSHAN KARNATAKA CHIKKODI CONTACT NO-944999335

Sd/-District Project Co-ordinatore
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-529/KSMCA/2023-24 **Samagra Shikshan Karnataka Chikkodi**

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Division, Gadag
Phone: 08372-297256. Email -id :- ee.rws.gdg@gmail.com
Tender Notification No :EE/RDWSS/GDG/AE/TND/2023-24 / 733 Date : 18.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Gadag invites Work tender from eligible PRED Contractor related to RDWS&S Division, Gadag District, for the works with details as given below
(1) **Indent No** : O&M FOR COMBINED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME TO SHIORL AND OTHER 2 VILLAGES IN NARGUND TALUK GADAG DISTRICT Indent No : RWSSD/ 2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT6462, Amount Put to Tender **53.47** Lakhs, EMD Amount **1.07** Lakhs.
The eligible bidders are required to submit through E-Procurement mode only & for More details can be had from this office and also through **http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.The date of starting of tender is **19.10.2023,** Last date for tender queries **30.10.2023**, Last date for Bid Submission is **31.10.2023**, Date of opening of technical Bid is **02.11.2023** & Date of opening of financial Bid is **04.11.2023**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/GADAG/KSMCA/265/2023-24 **RDW&S Division, Gadag,**

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023
E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in)
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-6/TND/2023-24/1268 Date:18.10.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-II and above registered in KPWD, in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following work.

Description of work	Approximate cost of the Project (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
Providing Comprehensive **Fire Fighting System in K C General Hospital,** Malleshwaram, Bengaluru	**398.73**	**6.00**	**6 Months**

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date for receipt of tenders : **30.10.2023 upto 16.00 hrs. 2.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **31.10.2023 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement portal platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement portal.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
H&FWD, Engineering Wing,
Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi - 585105
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/PKG-3/CALL2/AMRUT2/2023-24/822 Date: 17-10-2023.

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER- 2nd CALL :-

1) Detail of Work: Providing Water Supply Scheme to Kamalapura, Sandur and Sirguppa towns under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 Years (including 1 Year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode. **(KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT46CALL-2)**, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Rs. 9824.77 Lakhs (Excluding GST)**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: **Rs. 115.94** Lakhs 5) Period of Completion: 24 (Twenty four Months for CAPEX), 6) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **03-11-2023 Up to 11:00 Hours** 7) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **18-11-2023 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 8) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **20-11-2023 After 11:30 Hours**, 9) Addl. information : Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 10) Address of E-portal: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/371/KSMC&A/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga
EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/1095 Date : 13.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 750 (2) 752 (3) 755 (4) 758 (5) 761 (6) 762 (7) 766 (8) 792 (9) 790 (10) 794**
Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **23.10.2023 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **25.10.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **27.10.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **Double cover : 6 months (180 days)**

sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/SMG/No.86-10 zenkar/2023-24 **Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga**

Fear factor

Food and fuel prices may yet play spoilsport in the inflation battle

Inflation faced by consumers eased to 5% in September, bringing some relief after a sharp rally in prices that began with July's 15-month high inflation rate of 7.44%. This not only marks a return to the 2% to 6% tolerance range of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), but also matches the bank's upgraded estimate of 6.4% average inflation between July and September. Of course, the preferred inflation rate remains 4% and the RBI will remain "resolutely focused" on durably attaining that. By its own reckoning, that target appears distant – this quarter is expected to average 5.6% inflation, followed by 5.2% between January and June 2024. Even these expectations may need to be tempered. While the RBI has projected an average inflation of 5.4% in 2023-24, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank raised their estimates this month to 5.5% and 5.9%, respectively. So, September's 5% inflation, which was partly aided by base effects from 2022 when the inflation pace was 7.4% and partly by a sharp dip in volatile prices of tomatoes and vegetables, with a little help from the Centre's LPG price cuts, is unlikely to sustain or cool further.

Although food inflation which had spurred the spike in prices through July and August, has eased to 6.6% in September, this was disproportionately influenced by crashing vegetable prices even as the inflation pace accelerated for pulses, fruits, eggs and sugar. Cereals and spices inflation remained sticky at 11% and 23.1%, respectively. Rural inflation remained higher than that faced by urban consumers, and with the erratic monsoon hurting *kharif* season sowing in crops like pulses and uncertainties about the El Niño effects on the *rabi* crop, weak rural demand as well as food price pressures remain a source of concern for the economy. The Wholesale Price Index released on Monday shows pulses prices spiked 17.7% while onions rose 55% in September, compared to 10.4% and 31.4% in August, respectively. At -0.26%, wholesale price rise just about stayed in deflationary mode for the sixth month on the back of double-digit upticks through the same period last year. But that streak may be nearing its end. The government has held retail fuel prices since last May and may even be tempted to cut them ahead of critical elections. But producers, facing the brunt of higher global oil and gas prices, which rose at an eight-month high pace of 15.6% in September, have been raising prices for two months now. Global prices for urea, that India largely imports, are up 20% since March. These will start to feed into retail prices soon so it is not time to celebrate cooling inflation yet.

Sea service

Ferry between Tamil Nadu, Northern Sri Lanka holds much potential

The commencement of a passenger ferry service between Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka's Northern Province and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu last week marks the fulfilment of a long-standing demand across the Palk Strait for the revival of a sea link. Sri Lanka's civil war, which lasted nearly 25 years, had disrupted the movement of people and goods on traditional maritime routes – Talaimannar to Rameswaram and Colombo to Thoothukudi. Twelve years ago, a ferry service between Colombo and Thoothukudi did not last long due to a lack of patronage. There was also the popular Boat Mail connecting Chennai and Talaimannar via Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi through a rail link and a ferry, which nonagenarians recall. The cyclone in December 1964, which devastated Dhanushkodi, and the civil war ended the multiple transport links, forcing peoples in both countries to rely only on air services, which cover Madurai and Tiruchi too these days. Ten months ago, the Chennai-Jaffna air service resumed and according to an estimate, 10,000 tourists from India visited Sri Lanka over six months. The inauguration of a private cruise service in Chennai four months ago facilitated visits by 6,000 passengers to the island-nation. As pointed out during the launch of the Nagapattinam-Kankesanthurai service, the development would not only strengthen cultural, economic, and civilisational ties but also improve cooperation in disaster management and maritime security. It may, at some stage, also enable seamless voluntary repatriation of thousands of refugees from Sri Lanka, living in Tamil Nadu.

Normal operations of the service – it ran for a few days this month – are to resume in January in view of the northeast monsoon. By then, it is hoped that the authorities, especially in India, would take steps in the interest of the sustainability of the ferry service. With a fare of around ₹7,670 a person for a journey, the difference between this rate and air fares is not competitive enough for anyone to opt for the ferry. Increasing the baggage allowance of 50 kg would help. The provision of amenities at Nagapattinam port such as a dormitory and improving rail connectivity at Nagapattinam require attention, as passengers from Sri Lanka are sure to want to visit Chennai. On the part of Sri Lanka, economists, policymakers and activists should consider promoting economic ties including exports from the Northern Province, given the inherent asymmetrical bilateral relationship. Ultimately, sustained policy attention is critical to making this service a success. After all, Nagapattinam is predominantly agrarian and one of the economically backward spots of Tamil Nadu. So, it is up to the governments of the two countries to ensure that the Nagapattinam-Kankesanthurai ferry service does not meet the fate of the Thoothukudi-Colombo service.

The explosion of digital uncertainty

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, a former Governor of West Bengal, and formerly Executive Chairman of CyQureX Pvt. Ltd., a U.K.-U.S.A. cyber security joint venture

Recent advances in Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) have captured the imagination of the public, businesses and governments alike. The Government of India has also, very recently, released a comprehensive report on the opportunities afforded by this current wave of AI. Leaders of the IT industry in India are almost certain that this wave of AI will lead to fundamental changes in the skills landscape, and implicitly, in terms of underlying threats and dangers.

Scant understanding of the implications

Concurrently, there is an exponential explosion of digital uncertainty. Few are able to fully comprehend the nature of the new threat, the likes of which have not been witnessed in past decades, if not centuries. Few also realise the grave implications of what it means to have our lives and our economies run on what may be described as fertile digital topsoil. Even fewer realise the kind of intrinsic problems that result from this.

It is oft-repeated that digital infrastructure is built on layers upon layers of omniscient machine intelligence, human coded software abstractions, and undependable hardware components. Each of the layers interconnect through complex and deeply embedded protocols. The narrow aperture of understanding of such aspects means that the vast majority of people are ignorant of the implications. Even less understood is that complexity of this kind begets vulnerabilities.

While cyber has, no doubt, attracted a measure of attention, there is little – or true – understanding of the nature of today's cognitive warfare. Cognitive warfare truly ranks alongside other elements of modern warfare such as the domains of maritime, air and space. Cognitive warfare puts a premium on sophisticated techniques that are aimed at destabilising institutions, especially governments, and manipulation, among other aspects, of the news media by powerful non-state actors. It entails the art of using technological tools to alter the cognition of human targets, who are often unaware of such attempts.

The end result could be a loss of trust apart from breaches of confidentiality and loss of governance capabilities. Even more dangerous is that it could alter a population's behaviour using sophisticated psychological techniques of manipulation.

Given the maze of emerging technologies, both businesses and governments today confront an Armageddon of sorts. The methods employed are highly insidious. For example, today, with almost a third of companies in the more advanced countries of the world investing more in intangible assets than the physical one, they are putting themselves directly at risk from AI. Another estimate is that with over 50% of the market value of the top 500 companies sitting in intangibles, they too are deeply vulnerable. As firms, large and small, spend billions of dollars to migrate to the Cloud, and more and more sensors constantly send out sensitive information, the risks go up in geometrical progression. All this portends a dark, rather than a brave, new world order that we hope to inhabit.

Artificial Intelligence is the new threat that the world is contemplating now; but this is only the beginning

Hence, digital uncertainty is morphing into radical uncertainty and rather rapidly. Today, government and government agencies are spending significant resources to undo the impact of misinformation and disinformation, but this may not be enough. There is not enough understanding of how the very nature of information is being manipulated and the extent to which AI drives many of these drastic transformations. All this contributes to what can only be referred to as 'truth decay'.

The emergence of AGI

If AI is the grave threat that the world is currently contemplating, we are only witnessing the tip of the iceberg. As growing numbers of people – cognitively and psychologically – become dependent on digital networks, AI is able to influence many critical aspects of their thinking and functioning. What is simultaneously exhilarating and terrorising is the fact that many advances in AI are now being birthed by the machine itself. Sooner rather than later, we will witness the emergence of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) – Artificial Intelligence that is equal and or superior to human intelligence, which will penetrate whole new sectors and replace human judgement, intuition and creativity.

The impending dawn of AGI is far more disruptive and dangerous than anything else that we have encountered thus far. There is real fear that it could alter the very fabric of nation-states, and tear apart real and imagined communities across the globe. Social and economic inequalities will rise exponentially. Social anarchy will rule the streets as we see happening in some of the cities closest to the epicentre of technological innovation. It has an inherent capacity to flood a country with fake content masquerading as truth, and for imitating known voices with false ones that sound eerily familiar. This could lead to a breakdown of the concept of trust – of what is said, read, or heard – and could lead to overturning the trust pyramid with catastrophic consequences.

AGI will enable highly autonomous systems that outperform humans in many areas, including economically (valuable) work, education, social welfare and the like. AGI systems will have the potential to be able to make decisions that are unpredictable and uncontrollable which could have unintended consequences, often with harmful outcomes. It is difficult to comprehend at this point its many manifestations, but job displacements and economic displacements would be initial symptoms of what could become a tsunami of almost all human-related activity. Digital data could in turn become converted into digital intelligence, enlarging the scope for disruption and the reining in of entire sectors. It would enhance inequalities and exacerbate social disparities, and worsen economic disparities.

Hence, AGI could prove to be as radical a game-changer in the world of the 21st century as the Industrial Revolution was in the 18th century. It is almost certain to lead to material shifts in the geo-political balance of power, and in a way never comprehended previously. The spectre of digital colonisation looms large with AGI-based power centres being based in a few specific locations. Consequently, AGI-driven disruption could precipitate the dawn of the age of digital colonialism. This would lead to a new form of exploitation, *viz.*, data exploitation. In its most egregious form, it would entail export of raw data and import of value-added products that use this data. In short, AGI-based concentration of power would have eerie similarities to the old East India Company syndrome.

We could possibly be at the cusp of an 'Oppenheimer Moment', when the world is at a crossroads in the science of computing, communicating and engineering, and the ethics of a new technology whose power and potential we do not fully comprehend. Reining in, or even halting, the development of the most advanced forms of AGI, or disallowing unfettered experimentation with the technology may not be easy, but the alternative is that it has the potential to shape the nature of the world in a manner well beyond what can be anticipated. Today, AGI seems to imitate forms of reasoning with a power to approximate the way humans think. This is a new kind of arms race, but of a different kind, and it has just begun. It, perhaps, calls for more intimate collaboration between states and the technology sector, which is easier said than done.

The Hamas-Israel conflict

A final word. AI can be exploited and manipulated skilfully in certain situations, as was possibly the case in the current Hamas-Israeli conflict, sometimes referred to as the Yom Kippur War 2023. Israel's massive intelligence failure is attributed by some experts to an overindulgence of AI by it, which was skilfully exploited by Hamas. AI depends essentially on data and algorithms, and Hamas appears to have used subterfuges to conceal its real intentions by distorting the flow of information flowing into Israeli AI systems. Hamas, some experts claim, was thus able to blindside Israeli intelligence and the Israeli High Command. The lesson to be learnt is that an over-dependence on AI and a belief in its invincibility could prove to be as catastrophic as 'locking the gates after the horse has bolted'.

The BRI at 10, some hits, many misses

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice-President, Studies and Foreign Policy, at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Kalpit A. Mankikar

is Fellow, China Studies, at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

The Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that was convened in Beijing, China (October 17-18) has put the spotlight back on Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature initiative.

Early debates in China reveal the intent behind the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Academic Xue Li likened the BRI to China's Marshall Plan, stating that it was a gateway for China to transition from a regional power with global influence to a global power with comprehensive strength. Academic Wang Yiwei argued that the BRI was an ascendant China's bid to reboot globalisation and rectify its shortcomings. A rising China also felt the need to develop new transport and trade arteries as alternatives, since rivals could put the squeeze on the Strait of Malacca – the jugular vein for China's economy.

Beijing was also putting its money where its mouth was with the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with a $100 billion war chest, challenging other lending institutions. In the assessment of scholar Ju Jiejin, the AIIB would enable Mr. Xi to harvest early gains of the BRI. At the onset, Mr. Xi was pitching for the use of local currency in trade, thus in effect elbowing out the dollar. In this way, he began building an economic order centered on China

As a Xi vehicle

The BRI, which was launched shortly after Mr. Xi got the top job, also served as a vehicle for him to brand himself as a global statesman and project China's power and influence overseas. Domestically, the initiative entered the Communist Party of China's constitution in 2017, and got top billing in the 14th Five-Year Plan announced in 2021. The Chinese government's white paper on BRI released this month ("The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future") revealed that over 200 BRI cooperation pacts had been inked with over 150 nations. The document also stated that total two-way investment between China and partner countries from 2013 to 2022 touched $380 billion. As Mr. Xi himself put it, the BRI would provide more public goods to the entire world, highlighting the massive infrastructure deficit.

Even though the tale of Chinese munificence is marred by unsavoury ground realities, all eyes will be on the future of the Belt and Road Initiative

According to the World Bank, 675 million people are without electricity globally, around 2.3 billion lack potable water, and 450 million live beyond the coverage of a broadband signal. The lending institution calculates that bridging the infrastructure gap will need capital infusion of $1.5 trillion annually through 2030, which is approximately 4.5% of the GDP of low- and middle-income countries. Under China's Marshall Plan, motorways, power plants, ports, railway networks, and digital infrastructure have been built.

The ugly reality

But the tale of Chinese munificence is marred by some unsavoury ground realities. A report from the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute on the BRI has highlighted issues related to ecological damage, displacement of people, disputes over payouts and labour unrest. The findings detail case studies of Indonesia, where things came to a head over anxieties related to Chinese labourers filling up positions earmarked for locals.

In Laos, the glistening super-fast trains and impressive dam projects over the Mekong River cannot hide the woes of those left high and dry due to lack of compensation, or others on whom droughts due to dam-construction projects have wreaked havoc. AidData estimates that Laos owes China around $12.2 billion – about 65% of its GDP.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was conceived over the framework that ties between the two nations were deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey and higher than the Himalayas. Yet, a Pakistani legislative report unearthed that while China cornered 91% of Gwadar port's revenue, Pakistan pocketed just 9%. These issues have tarnished the reputation of brand BRI, especially its tagline of 'win-win cooperation' as there are perceptions that it is a win for China twice over at the cost of other stakeholders.

Global alternatives

After much hand-wringing, efforts are being taken to counter the BRI. In the Donald Trump era, the United States and Japan initiated the "United States-Japan infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region". The Joe Biden administration announced the 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) initiative that seems to have been reorganised as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, which aims to channelise private capital into climate change and energy security, health care and health security, digital technology, and gender equity.

Here, it must be noted that India has steadfastly opposed CPEC over issues related to sovereignty and had raised concerns over issues of unsustainable debt. Yet, like Cassandra's warnings, they could not convince hearts and minds in the thrall of China's narrative.

The G-20 Delhi summit posited yet another alternative in the form of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) that seeks to link India, West Asia, and Europe through railways and shipping lines. In addition to the trade connectivity, electricity and digital infrastructure as well as a pipeline for clean hydrogen export have been envisioned. It is too early to assess the alternatives, but all eyes will be on the future of BRI as it completes a decade. At a time when Beijing is grappling with economic worries related to debt and unemployment, it remains to be seen how it will reinvigorate the "project of the century".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supreme Court reasoning

The institution of marriage has always been flexible and dynamic. Laws that prevent child marriage and authorise interfaith marriages have altered the course of our history for the better. Empathy and respect do not fill the void left by the lack of legal provisions for same-sex marriages. The question falls not only under the ambit of any government body but also that of humanity and compassion. It is apathetic on our part if we live in a society where some have rights while others do not.

Rujuta Ashtekar,
Thane, Maharashtra

Favourable opinion about "same-sex marriage" among significant sections of the population is essential for a wider acceptance of such marriages at the grass-roots level. In that light, one cannot find much fault with the Supreme Court's refusal to accord "legal recognition" to marriages between persons of the same-sex. With the ball in the legislature's court now, LGBTQIA+ activists and groups can play their role in changing minds regarding "same-sex marriages". By doing so, they can hope to have our lawmakers under pressure to bring in appropriate legislation.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

End the conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is entering a dark phase — the attack on a hospital is utterly tragic. Such actions are a gross violation of international humanitarian laws and principles.
The world needs to push both sides to prioritise dialogue as countless innocent lives depend on collective efforts to end this cycle of violence.

Aman Chaubey,
Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The measure of the working woman

Sanjana Manaktala
leads National Initiatives and Policy at Rocket Learning

Namya Mahajan
is co-founder at Rocket Learning

Vishnu Bharathram
is an intern at Rocket Learning

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a parent working outside the home must have someone to take care of their child. In India, family structures have historically often filled this need, with fathers working outside the home, and mothers providing child care and elder care. However, this model is not conducive to India's growing ambitions. If the country is to grow into a $5 trillion economy, women must be included. There are two specific ways to get here: women's work, often care work, must be appropriately valued, and women must be adequately supported to participate in economic activity outside the home.

All women work, but not all of them get paid. Economist Claudia Goldin's 2023 Nobel Prize-winning work demonstrates this across American history. India's first national Time Use Survey released in 2020 by the National Statistical Office, finds that 81.2% of all women are engaged in unpaid domestic services, compared with 26.1% of men. It finds that men spend 42 hours on average on activities within the production boundary, i.e. what is traditionally counted as economic activity, whereas women spend 19 hours. However, women spend 10 times more time on household maintenance and care for children, the sick and the elderly – 34.6 hours versus 3.6 hours.

There are two implications for this: working women face the dreaded "double burden", where working outside the home and contributing to family income does not come with a commensurate reduction in household responsibilities, and the care work that they do spend time on is not counted in the larger economic estimates, leaving us with exhausted women with lower leisure hours in a week than their male counterparts.

Women's unpaid work plays a vital role in the economy: it is responsible for 7.5% of GDP, according to an SBI report. In other words, not only do women shoulder the burden of domestic work, but they also boost the GDP in the process. Yet in the official logs, they are not working.

Governments should change the way they value this labour. India can call for and lead the change in the internationally defined System of National Accounts so that changes can be incorporated into everything from GDP calculations to Census questionnaires. When uncounted, women's work remains invisible, which has implications for labour and employment policies. For example, statistical invisibility pushes household labour "outside the realm of protective labour legislation," which limits the work day and regulates labour conditions. Women in India work 1.5 hours longer a day than men, mostly unpaid, often in unsanitary conditions.

Women's unpaid work is responsible for 7.5% of GDP. In other words, not only do women shoulder the burden of domestic work, but they also boost the GDP in the process

Another facet

There is another face to this picture: supporting women working outside the home. In low-income families, single-income households are often an impossibility – both parents work simply because they have to. This means that the model of the breadwinner-caregiver begins to break down. Low-income women are working without support far more often than expected. This again is not reflected in the data because of volatility – women's work patterns are seasonal, sporadic and irregular and they often contribute to family businesses from within the home.

A study revealed that approximately 44% of women were part of the labour force when considering a period of four months, but only 2% of women were counted when considering an extended period of four years. Domestic obligations keep them from regular employment – and when they do, it is often with children in tow. At construction sites, Harvard researchers in 2013 described children playing in the shadow of dangerous equipment and high pollution. It endangers their lives and health at the most crucial age for brain development, i.e. under three years. All subsequent efforts and public funds directed towards education, health and skilling are then built on a weak base.

The government already runs the world's largest public system for child services, the remarkable Anganwadi system, which reaches 80 million children of up to six years of age through 1.4 million centres. These centres function best in a rural setting, where community members participate together. However, since they are only open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., women still need additional care options if they are to work a full eight-hour day.

A fast-urbanising India needs different models to support its women. Creches offer one solution: as of 2020, the National Creche Scheme operates nearly 6,500 crèches across the country. Creches help mothers build stable careers, as well as give children – who would otherwise be exposed at work – a safe, nurturing environment. The private sector recognises this need, and provides services for high-income families: the childcare/preschool ecosystem is an estimated ₹31,256 crore industry, expected to grow at 11.2% CAGR till 2028. There is an imperative, therefore, for the public sector to ramp up its already considerable efforts, to counteract the base inequality of income and provide high-quality child services to all.

Today, the women's labour force participation rate (FLFPR) in India is 32.8% according to government sources and 24% according to the World Bank, compared to China's 61%, Bangladesh's 38%, Nepal's 29% and Pakistan's 25%. If India wants to raise its FLPR to empower its women, myths around women's work must be dispelled, and women's work must both be counted appropriately and supported fairly.

The furore over Karnataka I-T searches

Despite no evidence, BJP has tried to link ruling Congress to the seized money

STATE OF PLAY

Aditya Bharadwaj
adhitya.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

The Income Tax (I-T) searches on contractors and realtors in Bengaluru that yielded a large cache of unaccounted money – ₹42 crore and ₹45 crore from two locations in the city – has led to a slugfest between the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS), and the ruling Congress.

The BJP and the JD(S), now in an alliance, have alleged that the recovered money was proceeds of corruption linked to clearing bills and were meant to fund the Congress for the upcoming Assembly elections in five States. The Congress has called the raids "politically motivated" and said they coincided with the election season.

The raids that went on for four days against "government contractors and real estate developers" in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and New Delhi recovered ₹94 crore in cash and ₹8 crore worth of gold jewellery, diamonds and luxury watches, totalling ₹102 crore, the I-T Department said. "The modus operandi of tax evasion detected indicates that these contractors were involved in reducing their income by inflation of expenses by booking bogus purchases, non-genuine claim of expenses with sub-contractors and claiming ineligible expenses," the I-T department further said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that though the I-T Department had not mentioned any political party, BJP and JDS leaders were trying to link the money to the Congress with an ulterior motive.

Of the big recoveries, I-T sleuths recovered ₹20 crore from a property linked to R. Ambikapathy, Vice President of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association, and ₹45 crore from the premises linked to a builder. Mr. Ambikapathy had stopped taking big contracts for a decade now, and the relator's business turnover was not congruent with the large sums of cash found on the premises linked to him, sources said. However, Mr. Ambikapathy's son, A. Pradeep, has claimed that the money was his and proceeds from a real-estate deal.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai hit out at Mr. Ambikapathy as he was one of the faces of a campaign run by the Contractors' Association against the previous BJP regime claiming that kickbacks sought by the government had touched an astronomical "40%".

Stalled payments

The Congress came to power fighting on an anti-corruption plank against the previous BJP regime. Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the charge of Water Resources and Bengaluru Development, two key spending portfolios, had stalled the payment of all pending bills and instituted inquiries to check the quality of works done under the BJP government to "prove allegations of corruption against the previous regime".

However, following protests by the Contractors' Association, a part of the pending bills has been cleared in Bengaluru.

Same tune

While political circles in the State are abuzz about "fund-raising" initiatives of the Congress for the upcoming five State polls, there is no evidence linking the money to the ruling party. The Congress has come down heavily on the central agencies, for the "unmissable pattern" of raids in Opposition-ruled States during any election season in the country. Mr. Siddaramaiah on Tuesday went even a step further and alleged that now that the funding from Karnataka for the BJP high command had stopped, the party was using central agencies to blackmail rich businessmen to collect money.

In April this year, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by 14 political parties alleging misuse of central agencies by the Narendra Modi-led government to target Opposition and dissenters. This time too, the BJP said the law was merely taking its course and that the raids had no political subtext.

Little has been stated on record by the agencies and the sequence of events has put the five-month-old Congress government in Karnataka under considerable pressure, especially on the alleged corruption in transfers and clearing pending bills. This, even as the BJP, that took a severe beating in the recently concluded State polls, is yet to even elect a Leader of Opposition and JDS leader H. D. Kumaraswamy has emerged as the principal challenger to the government.

The underdogs' day out in World Cup

Bangladesh's victory over Pakistan in 1999 remains the unlikeliest of underdog victories

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

For a set of activities that are governed by clear rules, unpredictability is what makes sport a compelling watch. The Netherlands' defeat of South Africa just a few days after Afghanistan's triumph over England at the ICC Cricket World Cup would not have been predicted by even the keenest observers of the game. Where do these upsets rank among other victories by underdogs over favourites in all World Cup games?

To answer that question, we take recourse to the use of the Elo ratings method. Elo ratings, developed by professor Arpad Elo for games such as chess, can be replicated for other two-team sports as well. The Elo system assigns a rating to each team, using the results of previous international games. The ICC uses a similar system to rate and rank its teams but it only publishes the current rankings of each team.

We relied upon the work of Gaurav Sood and Derek Willis (outside_edge at github) who constructed an algorithmic approach to calculate monthly Elo ratings for each ICC cricket playing nation/team, to identify the Elo ratings at the start of each World Cup. Sood and Willis had brought out ratings for each team till late 2021, but *The Hindu* used the same method of extracting match information from ESPNCricinfo for later ODIs and found the Elo ratings till October 2023. More involved Elo calculations that account for individual player ratings have been undertaken by others such as Kartikeya Date (@cricketingview in X) but only for Test playing nations.

The Elo ratings of any two teams playing a game during any World Cup are an indication of their prior and recent performances and strengths. The difference in their rating would indicate the gulf between the two sides. A team with a lower ELO rating, defeating one with a higher one could constitute an upset and if the Elo difference is quite high, it would qualify as a major upset.

Table 1 lists the major upsets in all games played in the World Cup till Tuesday. The Netherlands' defeat of South Africa on Tuesday was despite a gulf of a whopping 457 points between the Elo ratings of the respective teams. This was the second biggest upset after Bangladesh's defeat of Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup (Elo difference of 569 points). Afghanistan's defeat of England on Sunday was only the 13th biggest upset, largely because the former had a better cricketing resume in the lead up to the World Cup, leading to a difference of 255 points in their Elo ratings. If not for technical reasons, this defeat would have rated 12th, as the 6th biggest upset – New Zealand losing to Kenya – was due to the former forfeiting the game after refusing to take the field in Nairobi citing security concerns.

Favourties' chances

Having the highest Elo ratings at the start of the World Cup is not always a guarantee of a team's success as **Table 2** shows. Only West Indies in 1979 and Australia in 2003 and 2015 managed to live up to their status as favourites by winning the trophy. And India in 1983 and Pakistan in 1992 were the most unfancied teams that went on to lift the World Cup. Not for nothing are Kapil's Devils continued to be feted in India for heralding a cricketing revolution in the country. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan might be currently in the lowest ebb of his political career, but the sheer scale of his triumph as cricket captain in 1992 could explain how he managed to reach a peak in popularity in Pakistan.

Table 3 lists the Elo ratings of all the teams currently playing in the 2023 World Cup.

(With technical inputs from Rishywanth Ambalam)

Unexpected outcomes

The tables and charts are based on monthly Elo ratings generated by Gaurav Sood and Derek Willis for ODI teams and the underlying data is sourced from ESPNCricinfo.com

Table 1 | The table lists the major upsets in all games played in the World Cup till Oct. 17, 2023

Ongoing World Cup | New Zealand forfeited the match

SNo	Winner	Loser	Date	Edition	Winner ELO	Loser ELO	ELO diff
1	Bangladesh	Pakistan	31-May-99	1999	640	1209	-569
2	Netherlands	South Africa	17-Oct-23	2023	989	1446	-457
3	Zimbabwe	England	18-Mar-92	1992	737	1181	-444
4	Zimbabwe	South Africa	29-May-99	1999	1079	1437	-358
5	Ireland	Pakistan	17-Mar-07	2007	763	1108	-345
6	Kenya	New Zealand	21-Feb-03	2003	873	1164	-291
7	Pakistan	England	3-Jun-19	2019	1141	1431	-290
8	Kenya	Sri Lanka	24-Feb-03	2003	873	1146	-273
9	Pakistan	South Africa	7-Mar-15	2015	1090	1361	-271
10	South Africa	Australia	6-Jul-19	2019	1248	1514	-266
11	Sri Lanka	New Zealand	18-Jun-83	1983	812	1077	-265
12	Pakistan	New Zealand	26-Jun-19	2019	1219	1484	-265
13	Afghanistan	England	15-Oct-23	2023	1045	1300	-255
14	Bangladesh	Scotland	24-May-99	1999	640	890	-250
15	Ireland	England	2-Mar-11	2011	1023	1232	-209
16	West Indies	South Africa	11-Mar-96	1996	1110	1305	-195

- Elo rating is named after its creator Prof Arpad Elo
- It represents relative skill levels of players in sports
- A team/player's Elo rating may change depending on the outcome of rated games played. The difference between ratings of the winner & loser determines the points gained or lost after the game

Table 2 | The table lists the favourite teams and the teams that won the various World Cups throughout the years

Edition	Favourite	ELO Rating	Winner	ELO Rating
1975	England	1119	West Indies	1062
1979	West Indies	1222	West Indies	1222
1983	West Indies	1185	India	1047
1987	England	1337	Australia	1077
1992	England	1240	Pakistan	1057
1996	South Africa	1344	Sri Lanka	1162
1999	South Africa	1437	Australia	1201
2003	Australia	1463	Australia	1463
2007	New Zealand	1364	Australia	1246
2011	Australia	1506	India	1310
2015	Australia	1496	Australia	1496
2019	Australia	1514	England	1444
2023	India	1464	-	-

Table 3 | The table lists the Elo ratings of all the teams currently playing in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

SNo	Team	ELO Rating
1	India	1464
2	South Africa	1446
3	Pakistan	1383
4	Australia	1369
5	Sri Lanka	1362
6	England	1300
7	New Zealand	1288
8	Bangladesh	1180
9	Afghanistan	1045
10	Netherlands	989

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 19, 1973

U.S. contacts India on West Asia peace

Washington, Oct. 18:

The United States has been in contact with India and NATO in its search for a West Asia ceasefire, the State Department disclosed yesterday.

But the State Department spokesman, Mr. Robert McCloskey, indicated that no progress had been made on reaching a consensus of opinion on a way to stop the fighting.

He said that ideas had also been exchanged with the Soviet Union on a possible United Nations resolution, but he added the discussions had been of general nature.

Mr. McCloskey said in answer to a question at a news briefing that U.S. officials in New Delhi had been in contact with the Indian Government and that the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, was due shortly to meet the Indian Ambassador, Mr. T. N. Kaul, in Washington.

The United States has been seeking the views of a number of nations on West Asia including China, officials said.

Dr. Kissinger has been in daily contact with the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Anatoli Dobrynin, ever since the current war started.

Attempts to end the West Asia war were "a test of the real meaning of detente", Dr. Kissinger said to-day speaking to members of the Association of the United States Army after they had presented them with the George Marshall prize for 1973.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 19, 1923

Indian radio telegraph company

(Associated Press of India)

Bombay, October 17

Messrs. F. M. Chinoy and Co. of Bombay have just registered a company by the name of the Indian Radio Telegraph Co. Ltd. with a capital of ₹3 crore for the purpose of erecting a high power wireless station in India. Among the directors of the company are Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Messrs. C. N. Wadya, N. Birrel, Mr. Sultanalli Chinoy and others.

From Page One

In ruins: People gather at the site of Israeli strikes on houses in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday. REUTERS

Israel and Hamas trade blame over blast

After the hospital blast, Jordan cancelled a meeting between Mr. Biden, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. Mr. Biden was now visiting only Israel.

The war between Israel and Hamas was "pushing the region to the brink," Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told state-run television.

The Israeli military held a briefing on Wednesday morning laying out its case for why it was not responsible for the explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said it was not firing in the area when the blast occurred. And, he said, Israeli radar confirmed a rocket barrage was fired by the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad from a nearby cemetery at that time of the blast, around 6:59 p.m.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike. The Islamic Jihad dismissed Israel's claims, accusing Israel of "trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed".

Govt. clears bonanza of ₹15,000 cr. for staff

For 11.07 lakh non-gazetted railway employees, a Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2022-23 was announced, amounting to ₹1,968.87 crore. Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force personnel are excluded from the ambit of this bonus.

"The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both dearness allowance and dearness relief [for pensioners] would be ₹12,857 crore per annum. This will benefit about 48.67 lakh Central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners," an official statement said, noting that it will recompense them "against price rise".

On Tuesday, the government had cleared an *ad hoc* or non-productivity-linked bonus for the last financial year 2022-23 equivalent to 30 days of emoluments with a ceiling of ₹7,000, for non-gazetted 'Group B' employees and all 'Group C' employees who are not covered by any productivity linked incentives. This bonus is also admissible for eligible employees of the armed forces and the Central paramilitary forces. The exact outgo on account of this bonus could not be ascertained.

Reacting to the productivity-linked bonus payments announced for 11,07,346 railway employees, Shiva Gopal Mishra, general secretary of All India Railwaymen's Federation, requested the Railway Board to ensure railwaymen receive the bonus before Durga Puja and Dasara.

The Cabinet noted that the Railways' performance was "very good" in 2022-23 as it carried a record cargo of 1,509 million tonnes and nearly 6.5 billion passengers.

Probe Adani Group for jacking up price of coal imports: Rahul

Former Congress chief alleged that the electricity bills have gone up because of 'over-invoicing' of coal imports from Indonesia; he also questioned the silence of Indian media on the issue and why SEBI can't find documents against the group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The electricity bill of an average consumer has gone up because of "over-invoicing" of coal imports from Indonesia by the Adani Group, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi alleged on Wednesday, quoting a recent report of the London-based *Financial Times* (*FT*).

Mr. Gandhi wondered why the Narendra Modi government had not ordered an inquiry against the Adani Group despite so many allegations of wrongdoing against it.

Rahul Gandhi with Jairam Ramesh addressing the media at party headquarters, in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Come clean'

"Come clean, start an investigation. Defend your credibility," he said.

The former Congress chief, who stepped out of a meeting that was deciding candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly election, also answered a question on NCP president Sharad Pawar's taking a different position on the issue from rest of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc. "Sharad Pawar is not the Prime Minister of India, he is not protecting Adani*ji*," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi said earlier he had accused the Adani group of siphoning off ₹20,000 crore, but after *FT*'s investigation, the figure is revised upward to ₹32,000 crore, including ₹12,000 crore because of alleged over-invoicing of coal imports. "This is direct theft by the man who is protected by the Prime Minister of India again and again," he alleged.

The Congress leader not only questioned the "silence" of the Indian media on the Adani story but also wondered why the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) could not find documents against the group when *s* could.

Over-invoicing

Mr. Gandhi said the Congress government in Karnataka was giving power subsidy to protect consumers and had offered a similar election promise for Madhya Pradesh, but the actual reason for inflated bills is over-invoicing.

"Brothers and sisters, and the youth, you should know that every time a poor man turns the switch on to run a fan or a bulb, the money directly goes to [Gautam] Adani's pockets," Mr. Gandhi said, directly addressing the public through the press conference.

An inquiry

He also asserted that if the Opposition parties formed a government at the Centre, there would definitely be an inquiry against the Adani Group. However, when he was asked if Congress-ruled States would launch such inquiries against the Adani Group if they were operating in the power sector in those States, he said, "That's an interesting idea. We will look into it."

Cong. has no faith in either Constitution or SC: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress of having "no faith" either in the Constitution or in the Supreme Court of India, after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the government over news reports about alleged inflated invoicing of coal imports by the Adani group.

At a press conference countering these allegations, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the Gandhi family of being the "most corrupt" family in the world, adding that Mr. Gandhi was himself out on bail in the National Herald case.

"The Congress leader never speaks on the corruption charge against him and the alleged scams of his brother-in-law Robert Vadra," Mr. Bhatia said.

Mr. Bhatia accused the Congress of defiling democracy and elections with use of corrupt money.

2008 murder of journalist: Delhi court convicts four

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday convicted four men of the murder of 25-year-old journalist Soumya Vishwanathan and offences under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). Another person was convicted of receiving the stolen property of the deceased. Soumya was shot dead on September 30, 2008 while returning home from work in her car. The police had claimed that the motive behind her killing was robbery.

The conviction of Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar was announced by Additional Sessions Judge Ravindra Kumar Pandey. The fifth accused Ajay Sethi was convicted under IPC Section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) along with the stringent MCOCA provisions.

Modi expresses shock over explosion at hospital in Gaza

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Expressing shock over the massive blast at a hospital in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the death of civilians in the Israel-Hamas war was a matter of concern.

In a social media message, which was posted hours after an alleged Israeli attack on the al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza Strip left hundreds dead, Mr. Modi called for justice in the case.

Several other political leaders, including former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of the Congress, has condemned the bombing.

Deep shock

"Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured. Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible," Mr. Modi said.

> Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Brutal attack

Mr. Chidambaram, in a post on X, said, "It is as brutal as the Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7 that triggered the present bloody conflict. Both sides have suffered and will continue to suffer if the fighting does not stop immediately. War is no solution to disputes."

Ms. Gandhi condemned the "blockading" of essential items for Gaza and said, "The bombing of hospitals, the murder of children, the blockading of food, water and medicines to civilians....there are no words strong enough to condemn the horror that is taking place in Gaza. As a woman, a mother, a human being, I am ashamed that the world is allowing these crimes to be committed with such impunity."

In New Delhi, Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon issued a videotaped message blaming the Islamic Jihad for the bombing and added that rockets fired by the Hamas have often fallen within the Gaza territory hurting Palestinian people.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also condemned "terrorism in all forms".

Internet services to be restored soon in Manipur, says Biren

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Top officials of the CRPF discussed the evolving law and order situation in the country

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Wednesday said mobile Internet services will be restored in the State within "four to five days." Speaking at a public programme at the mini-Secretariat in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district after a Cabinet meeting, Mr. Singh said, "I understand people's hardships because of the mobile Internet ban.... However, I want to assure you that services will be restored in the next four to five days."

Law and order situation

Top officials of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Wednesday discussed the evolving law and order situation in the country in the light of challenges being faced in Manipur.

The need for modernising the Rapid Action Force that is deployed for crowd control in Manipur was deliberated upon.

The conference, led by Director-General Sujoy Lal Thaosen, provided a platform to the field commanders for a thorough and fruitful deliberation on a wide range of issues covering operations in all the theatres where CRPF is deployed.

Mr. Thaosen emphasised that 21st-century security challenges require a more focused approach, a combination of new skills and tactics and an upgrade of technology. The D-G asked field commanders to work diligently to ensure peaceful conduct of the upcoming Assembly elections in five States.

(With PTI inputs)

Newsclick: SC to hear pleas on the arrest of founders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and P.K. Mishra on Wednesday adjourned petitions challenging the arrest and remand of *NewsClick* founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources head Amit Chakraborty to October 19. The pair were arrested by the Delhi Police under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on October 3.

Justice Gavai orally indicated that notice would anyway have to be issued to the police in the case. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Devadutt Kamat appeared for the petitioners.

The case had reached the top court after the Delhi High Court refused to interfere with the arrest and subsequent police remand of Mr. Purkayastha and Mr. Chakraborty under the anti-terror law.

Can refer aspects of PMLA verdict to Constitution Bench, if need be: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on Wednesday indicated it may, if required, refer any aspect of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), upheld by a Supreme Court judgment in July 2022, to a Constitution Bench.

A Special Bench of Justices Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M. Trivedi was hearing a series of petitions which have questioned the correctness of the top court's judgment on July 27, 2022 in the *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* case.

The judgment, delivered by a Coordinate Bench of three judges led by Justice (now retired) A.M. Khanwilkar last year, had upheld core amendments to the PMLA which gave extensive powers to the Enforcement Directorate and shifted the burden of proof of innocence onto the accused rather than the prosecution. The judgment had hailed the PMLA as the law brought to end the "scourge of money laundering".

> The remit of this Bench is not to reconsider every issue addressed by the three-judge Bench...We are going to look if any of the issues requires reconsideration
>
> **SANJAY KISHAN KAUL**
> SC Judge

However, discontent over the July 2022 judgment translated into more writ petitions being filed in the apex court. They challenged the impact of the PMLA on personal liberty, procedures of law and the constitutional mandate. Review petitions were also filed against the judgment.

The case suffered a long hiatus until the Special Bench headed by Justice Kaul convened on Wednesday.

Justice Kaul said his Bench did not want to begin an "unwieldy exercise" of a "general reconsideration" of the July 2022 judgment.

"We will see if the judgment needs to be reconsidered on any point... The remit of this Bench is not to reconsider every issue addressed by the three-judge Bench [Khanwilkar Bench]. We are going to look if any of the issues addressed by that Coordinate Bench requires reconsideration. If we feel it requires so, we cannot reconsider it in a three-judge combination... But if we feel nothing is required to be reconsidered, we will dismiss the petitions," Justice Kaul said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said every provision of the PMLA was debated before the Khanwilkar Bench. "This is an abuse of law... You [petitioners] say you are an 'enlightened' citizen and feel the judgment was wrong and file writ petitions? Now, they want you to sit in appeal of a Coordinate Bench's judgment when the review petitions are yet to be heard?" Mr. Mehta addressed the Bench.

Justice Kaul said cases first come before Coordinate Benches, which in turn decide whether or not to refer them to larger Benches of five or seven judges.

"If some aspects need to be relooked, we are certainly not constrained by law to look into it and refer them, if necessary, to a larger Bench," Justice Kaul observed orally.

The court posted the case for November 22.

Centre notifies appointment of 17 judges across 8 HCs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday notified the appointment of 17 judges across eight High Courts and the transfer of 16 judges across several High Courts, including the acting Chief Justice of Manipur. The move came days after the Supreme Court had expressed its displeasure over delay in appointment and transfer of High Court judges.

The latest round of transfers included Justice M.V. Muralidharan, the Acting Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, to the Calcutta High Court. Justice Muralidharan's order in March to consider including the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes list is said to be one of the triggers for the violence that erupted in Manipur.

Among those who have been appointed as judges in eight High Courts, 11 are judicial officers, while six are advocates.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the names of 13 advocates as judges of different High Courts.

The collegium recommended the names of advocates N. Unni Krishnan Nair, and Kaushik Goswami as judges of the Gauhati High Court. It also has recommended the names of Siddhartha Sah and Alok Mahra for appointment as judges of the Uttarakhand High Court.

It has recommended Harmeet Singh Grewal, Deepinder Singh Nalwa, Sumeet Goel, Sudeepti Sharma and Kirti Singh for appointment as judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

The collegium said the recommendations were based on consultations with colleagues and assessment of the fitness and suitability of the advocates for appointment as judges.

Panel asks BJP MP to present evidence against Moitra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey has been asked to present evidence in front of the Parliamentary Ethics Committee on October 26 to back his allegations that Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra took money to ask parliamentary questions.

Mr. Dubey has been called along with advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, Ms. Moitra's former partner, who has been quoted in the BJP MP's complaint.

"I am directed to state that the Committee on Ethics has decided to hear you in the above matter in person on October 26, 2023, from 12:30 hours onwards in Committee Room 1, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi. Necessary confirmation in this regard may kindly be sent to the Secretariat, latest by 20 October, 2023," the letter from the panel said.

‘BJP not in panic in M.P., Rajasthan; cadres follow party line’

Fielding more than a dozen MPs for Assembly elections in the two States is not a sign of anxiety and the party is attempting to form governments with a clear majority in those States, says Defence Minister; he underscores that positions held by senior party leaders in the organisation can change, recalling the various posts he has held; Vasundhara Raje will work towards party’s win, he adds

INTERVIEW

Rajnath Singh

Nistula Hebbar

On the campaign trail in Telangana, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks to *The Hindu* on the upcoming Assembly elections to five States and why he thinks India will not see a conflict as between Israel and Hamas... Edited excerpts:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that his party will win in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. How do you view the prospects of the BJP in these Assembly elections?

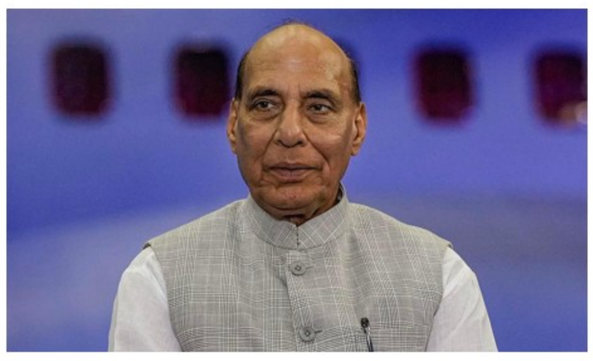
I don’t want to comment on what Rahul Gandhi is saying, that is his assessment or maybe, he is saying it for public consumption. BJP is the biggest national party of the country and our attempt is to make a government with the clear majority in both States.

But the BJP’s fielding more than a dozen MPs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is being looked at as a “panic reaction” over poll prospects.

We cannot term it the party’s panic. It is a unique characteristic of this party that all cadre are ready to fall in with the party’s plans whatever position they occupy. The party should be successful, not just to enjoy power, but so that we form the government, build up society and the country. When that is one’s goal, these movements can be explained.

Does this also entail the sidelining of leaders like Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vasundhara Raje as is happening in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, despite both being Chief Ministers in the past and present?

Vasundhara*ji* is a stalwart of Rajasthan, and she will complete whatever task is



given to her by the party and I have no doubt that she will work towards the party’s victory.

As for being Chief Ministers in the past or even in the present, even I have been Chief Minister in the past [Uttar Pradesh, October 2000- March 2002]. But I was told to work in the party, so I became general secretary, then the party made me BJP president twice, then Home Minister and now Defence Minister. In our party, positions can change.

What can explain the change in the position for former Telangana State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar from that post to being made the national general secretary?

Current State unit president G. Kishan Reddy is also an experienced person as is Bandi Sanjay. Who knows, Bandi Sanjay may be asked to fight the Assembly polls? The party must have thought that Kishan Reddy be given the responsibility of the organisation so that Bandi Sanjay can fight the Assembly polls?

The conflict between Israel and Hamas has taken the world by storm, and raised questions on what is our own preparedness in the face of terror attacks.

In India, this kind of attack will not take place, it will be difficult to carry out as our social harmony is our biggest defence. Whether people belong to any caste, creed, religion, there is an overarching sense of belonging in our country. We must of course be alert to terror attacks and terrorism must be combated and the world must get together to do so. At the same time, innocent people should not be caught in the middle of all this.

What is your view about the Bihar government’s caste survey and calls by the Opposition for a nationwide caste census?

As far as our government is concerned, we are totally committed to the socio-economic empowerment of all sections of society, without any discrimination based on caste, creed or religion.

Our schemes are aimed at the poor across the board. As far as the Bihar [caste] survey is concerned, I want to see what the State government does in terms of welfare following this. More to the point many questions are being raised on the methodology, authenticity of the survey.

And I believe that the findings of that survey need to be verified as well. I believe that we must be concerned that no section of society be left out of the government’s outreach.

Cong. defies diktat, fields woman with non-tribal spouse

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Congress in Mizoram has defied the diktat of a students’ organisation to nominate a woman as the party’s candidate for the Lunglei South seat in the Assembly election.

Soon after the Election Commission announced the date for the election, the influential Mizo Zirlai Pawl (Mizo Students’ Union) asked all the political parties not to field any woman married to a non-tribal.

The decree was believed to have initially bothered the Congress, which announced the list of 39 candidates on October 16. The Lunglei South constituency did not figure on that list.

That night, however, All India Congress Committee general secretary K.C. Venugopal announced the name of Meriam L. Hrangchal as the party’s candidate from Lunglei South.

Ms. Hrangchal, the daughter of Mizoram’s former Deputy Chief Minister Lalhmingthanga, is married to a Gurkha who sports a Mizo name and is an elder at the Baptist Church of Mizoram.

A Congress spokesperson told the *Zoram Chronicle*, a local news portal, that the family of Ms. Hrangchal’s husband has been living in the State for generations, much before Mizoram came into existence as a Union Territory in 1972.

“We nominated her because we wanted her as an eligible, qualified candidate,” State Congress president Lalsawta told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Three defectors from MNF among BJP’s Mizoram candidates

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Former Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo, ex-Minister K. Beichhua and former MNF adviser T. Lalenthanga named in the BJP list

The BJP on Wednesday announced the names of 21 candidates for the November 7 election to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly.

The list, released in two instalments, names three leaders who quit the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), including former Assembly Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo, over the past few months.

The other two are former Minister K. Beichhua and former MNF adviser T. Lalenthanga. They are contesting from the Mamit, Saiha, and West Tuipui constituencies, respectively.

Four women candidates

The BJP has fielded four women, twice as many as the MNF and its regional challenger, the Zoram People’s Movement. They are R. Lalbiaktluangi, contesting from Lunglei West, Judy Zohmingliani (Tuivawl seat), F. Lalremsangi (Aizawl South-I), and K. Vanlalruati (Serchhip).

Ms. Lalremsangi is the spokesperson of the BJP’s State unit.

The BJP, a friend of the MNF because of their mutual enemy, the Congress, had contested 39 of the 40 seats in the Christian-majority Mizoram in 2018. The party could manage to win only one seat – Tuichawng – dominated by the Buddhist Chakma people.

Takeaway for BJP

The State BJP leaders, however, chose to focus on the positives. The party’s vote share in the election five years ago was 8.09%, almost eight times more than the 0.37% garnered in the 2013 election.

Thirty-three of the 39 BJP candidates forfeited their deposits in 2018, an improvement over the fate of all its 17 candidates in 2013.

Cong. top brass deliberates Rajasthan first list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Election Committee of the Congress on Wednesday discussed potential candidates for the upcoming Rajasthan Assembly election as the party is all set to announce its first list within the auspicious period of Navaratri.

The first list is likely to be made only post October 20 after party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addresses a rally in the State. Another round of deliberations by the CEC is scheduled to take place on October 21.

Sources said the party cleared names for around 100 seats in Rajasthan. The party top brass has to tread carefully in Rajasthan, given the State unit’s history of leadership tussle between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former Deputy, Sachin Pilot.

The party will have to take a call on whether or not it would give ticket to the 18-19 MLAs who backed Mr. Pilot during the unsuccessful July 2020 rebellion against the Gehlot government as well as those lawmakers who had defied the high command’s directive to hold a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting.

On September 25, 2022, a majority of the MLAs had teamed up and refused to hold a CLP meeting after Mr. Gehlot had emerged as a frontrunner for the Congress presidential polls.

Put on hold

Three leaders – chief whip Mahesh Joshi, Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal and Dharmendra Rathore – were issued show-cause notice for indiscipline.

Sources said their names have been put on hold for now.

The names of potential candidates that emerged from ground level surveys along with reports of anti-incumbency and allegations of corruption against MLAs were also said to have been discussed.

In a recent interview with *The Hindu*, Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Dotasra had said tickets of as many as 30% MLAs might be cut.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
KMML (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217, E-mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com**

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_613642_1	For supply of Uniform Cloths-Suiting and Shirting for KMML Direct Contract Workers

Chavara, 18.10.2023 — **Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enq. No. 497/P-2/EMP-W-12470 dated 17.10.2023.
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. Tender ID 2023_POWER _111226_1 for Annual Overhauling Works (Lower Mechanical Portion only) of Motorized & Pneumatic operated valves and Gear boxes of Unit #4 & 5 at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 18.10.23 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
RTP-123/23 — **76155/12/2306/2023/29000**

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान तिरुवनंतपुरम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
MARUTHAMALA P.O., VITHURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Tel: 0471-2778044, 8146, 8246

NON - FACULTY RECRUITMENT 2023

IISER(T)/HR/0004/2023 — 19.10.2023

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram invites applications from eligible Indian nationals for various non-faculty posts (Assistant Librarian, Executive Engineer, Jr. Engineer, Jr. Technical Assistant, Attendant (Electrician) and Attendant (Plumber)).

The last date of submission of applications online is by 17.00 hrs on 06.11.2023.

For further details and submission of application, please see: **https://www.iisertvm.ac.in**

04/23-24 dt.19.10.2023 — **REGISTRAR**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala- 147001
Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it1@pspcl.in
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 306/DIT- 726/Vol-2 dated 18.10.2023

Dy. CE/IT (A&PM), Ground Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of **Digitization of Employees’/Pensioners’ Service Books/ Personal files and cases of Consumers having sanctioned load>100KW, MS and SP categories** for PSPCL.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 18.10.2023, 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum and adendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.

C - 747/23 — **76155/12/2304/2023/28970**

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
4th Floor, Felicity Square Building, Opp. AG Office, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001 +91 - 0471 - 4010374
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E- TENDER NOTICE

E Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Request for Proposal (RFP) For the Selection of agency for supply, installation and Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Electronic Display Boards LED type Thiruvananthapuram	2023_SCTLT_601669_1	08.11.2023 05:00 PM

Date and Time of opening Price Bid: To be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by Email
All the documents and details are available on the E procurement website. Bids are only accepted online on the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in / Phone: 0413 - 2296022

No. Admn-I/DR/1(2)/2023 — Date: 19.10.2023

Advertisement Notice

Applications are invited by the Director, JIPMER from the eligible Indian nationals for the following posts in JIPMER, Puducherry and Yanam:-

Sl. No.	Post Code	Name of Posts	JIPMER Campus	Number of Posts & Reservation					
				Total Posts	UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST
Group A (Non-faculty) posts									
1.	322023	Specialist	Yanam	9	6	-	2	1	-
2.	332023	General Duty Medical Officer	Yanam	20	8	2	5	3	2
3.	342023	Child Psychologist	Puducherry	2	2	-	-	-	-
		Total [Group A]		**31**	**16**	**2**	**7**	**4**	**2**
Group B posts									
1.	352023	Nursing Officer*	Yanam	25	11	2	6	4	2
2.	362023	X-Ray Technician (Radio-Diagnosis)	Yanam	5	1	-	2	1	1
3.	372023	Junior Occupational Therapist	Puducherry	2	1	1	-	-	-
4.	382023	Junior Physiotherapist	Puducherry	2	1	-	1	-	-
5.	392023	Medical Laboratory Technologist	Puducherry	27	12	2	7	3	3
		Total [Group B]		**61**	**26**	**5**	**16**	**8**	**6**
Group C posts									
1.	402023	Pharmacist	Yanam	2	-	-	-	1	1
2.	412023	Stenographer Grade – II	Yanam	1	1	-	-	-	-
3.	422023	Junior Administrative Assistant	Yanam	2	-	-	-	1	1
		Total [Group C]		**5**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**2**
		Gr. A + Gr. B + Gr. C posts Total		**97**	**43**	**7**	**23**	**14**	**10**

* As per decision of the JIPMER Governing Body, at least 80% posts of Nursing Officer are reserved for female candidates.

***Note: The number of posts is tentative and may change based on the requirement of the Institute. Any change will be notified before the selection* examination on JIPMER website (www.jipmer.edu.in).**

Horizontal Reservation :
The vacancies indicated above include the following horizontal reservation:

Post Code No.	Name of Post	Posts identified to be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities (PWBD)
332023	General Duty Medical Officer	1
362023	X-Ray Technician (Radio-Diagnosis)	1
392023	Medical Laboratory Technologist	2#

 # including backlog vacancies.

Note:- The candidates appointed under Horizontal Reservation i.e. PWBD quota will be placed against their respective categories [SC/ST/EWS/OBC & Unreserved (UR)].

1. Details regarding age, qualification, experience, application fees, mode of examination / payment and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the post are available at: **www. jipmer.edu.in.**
2. Applications should be submitted online only. Online Registration will tentatively start from 19.10.2023. The last date for closing of online application is 16.11.2023 till 04:30 PM.

DIRECTOR

Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam
(An H.P. Government Undertaking)
Block No. 24, 2nd Floor, STPI Building, SDA Complex, Shimla-171009

The Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) as State Skill Development Mission has mandate to implement skills development project having loan no. and title 3573-IND/Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project. HPKVN invites Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the selection of prospective/eligible bidders for procurement/supply of the Machinery & Equipment and related items against Package No.

HPKVN/(563)/2020/Proc./Op.Part.CoE/Vol-III- — **Date: 19.10.2023**

Sr. No.	Name of the package	Deadline for receipt of RFQ
1.	HPKVN/ CoE/ Equipment & Furniture/ 01R3- Procurement of Training Fitness Centre and Wellness Centre Equipment.	02.11.2023
2.	HPKVN/CoE/Equipment & Furniture/01R7 - Procurement of Training Bakery Lab.	02.11.2023
3.	HPKVN/CoE/Equipment & Furniture/01R8 - Procurement of Live Kitchen and Kitchen.	02.11.2023

Interested Bidders are requested to submit their bids on prescribed "Proforma", which may be downloaded from www.hpkvn.in. The bids must reach to this office on or before **02.11.2023**, by 01:00 PM along with requisite documents.

-sd-
Managing Director

Procurement-4376

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Press Tender Enq. No. 496/P-2/EMP-W-12467 dated 17/10/23
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites open Press Tender (Short Term) for Repair of LT Dry Type Air Cooled Lighting Transformers of Coal Handling Plant, GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://pspcl.in from 17.10.2023 from 05.00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at **https://pspcl.in**
RTP-121/23 — **76155/12/2302/2023/28967**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE NO.14/2023-2024/D1/DATED:16.10.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **Item rate tender** in Two cover system through online only will be received **upto 06.11.2023 - 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle for Construction / Reconstruction of **One Bridge** work under **RIDF XXVIII NABARD Loan Assistance 158 Bridges for the year 2022-2023** pertaining to **Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division,** which was approved in G.O. (Ms.) No.7 Highways and Minor Ports (EAP.II(2) Department dated 30.01.2023.

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available **from 19.10.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes / Corrections / Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

DIPR/5638/TENDER/2023 — **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)**
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI-2

INBRIEF

President launches fourth Krishi Road Map of Bihar

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-28) of Bihar with an estimate of ₹1.62 lakh crore. The map focuses on increasing agricultural production, while also increasing farmers' incomes in the five years. The road map, the fourth of its kind, focuses on storage, processing, and expansion of seed and irrigation along with crop diversification and improved agriculture marketing. Ms. Murmu launched the road map at Babu Sabhagar in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Agriculture Minister Kumar Sarvjeet, Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker Awadh Bihar Choudhary and others Ministers.

Ex-Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das is Odisha's new Governor

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Indra Sena Reddy Nallu have been appointed as the Governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique on Wednesday said that President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to make the appointments that will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices. Mr. Das, currently a national vice-president of the BJP, was the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. Mr. Nallu is a BJP leader from Telangana. PTI

Mohammad Akhone elected CEC of Kargil hill council

National Conference (NC) leader Mohammad Jaffer Akhone was elected Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil on Wednesday. An official said the NC proposed the name of Dr. Akhone as the elected members of the new Council met in Kargil. His nomination had the support of 12 elected members of the NC and 10 members of the Congress. The NC and the Congress are rotating the term after two-and-a-half years. Dr. Akhone assumed office soon after the council's meeting. Dr. Akhone is a retired Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and brother of senior NC leader Qamar Ali Akhoon.

IIT-Kharagpur student found dead inside hostel room

K. Kiran Chandra, a fourth-year dual-degree student in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, was found dead on Tuesday. Kiran Chandra was with two roommates in their hostel room till 7.30 p.m., when the two left for academic activities. When the students came back around 8.30 p.m., they found the room locked from inside. The students and security staff brought Kiran Chandra to the B.C. Roy Technology Hospital and the student was declared dead around 11.30 p.m.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek counselling by calling any of the following numbers: 033-24637401, 033-24637432

Sarma attacks lone Muslim Minister in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday took a controversial dig at Chhattisgarh's only Muslim Minister, Congress leader Mohammad Akbar, saying "that the land of Mother Kaushalya will get defiled if Akbar is not sent off".

In a vitriolic campaign speech in Chhattisgarh's Kawardha, Mr. Sarma repeatedly made references to the name of Mr. Akbar, who represents the constituency.

He used the word Akbar as a metaphor for Muslims in the context of a wide range of topics – from the Ayodhya dispute to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, and even the migration problem in his home State of Assam.

"If one Akbar comes to some place, he calls 100 Akbars. So, send him off as soon as possible, otherwise the land of Mother Kaushalya will get defiled," he said. Kaushalya, the mother of Lord Ram, hailed from what is modern day Chhattisgarh, according to scriptures.

'India will explore building large language models'

High-powered committee will study their development for Indian languages; large amounts of private and foreign capital plus government funds needed for deep tech, says Amitabh Kant

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will set up a "high-powered committee" to explore the development of large language models, or LLMs, tools that harness artificial intelligence to create applications that can understand and process human language, the Union government's Principal Scientific Adviser, Ajay Sood, said on Wednesday. LLMs are a cornerstone technology underlying several pieces of 'intelligent' software and help make possible applications such as ChatGPT.

"A high-powered committee is being set up to explore such LLMs and especially how this can be applied to Indian languages," Dr. Sood said, speaking at TechSurge, a summit jointly organised here by the venture capital firm Celesta Capital, the U.S.-India Business Council, and Quad Investors Network.

The office of the Principal Scientific Adviser had put out a draft National Deep Tech Start-up Policy for public comment on July 31. The purpose of the policy is to "ensure India's position in the global deep tech value chain", in areas such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and Space technology.

G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay Sood at an event on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said that India's success in developing an array of technological applications, such as digital payments, made it a "natural ecosystem" for deep tech. However, India needs a "fund of funds" – that is, a significant amount of private, foreign capital, along with government funds – to finance promising start-ups that were relatively long-term, known as "patient capital", he said.

U.S.-India collaboration

U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti remarked that India and the U.S. were at the best point in their relationship in many years, making it an ideal time for both countries to collaborate on deep tech. "If we talk in terms of, say, a Facebook status, for a long time, the relationship status was 'it's complicated', and now it has moved to 'in a relationship'," he said. "There are no two nations on this globe who together can do this work better, fill each other's weaknesses with the other's strengths, and show a model of what it means to do it with democratic values that put people in the centre of this technological revolution," he added.

"The opportunities that present itself in terms of collaboration and engagement between both countries are limitless," Celesta Capital managing partner Arun Kumar said.

'Deep tech' is a buzzword in tech and start-up circles. India's draft policy document on deep tech cites Startup India's database, which claims that there are 10,298 start-ups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade which are classified across various sub-sectors within the larger deep tech space as of May 2023.

Committee on marriage Bill gets another extension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee examining a Bill which seeks to increase the age of marriage of women from the present 18 to 21 has been granted a fresh three-month extension to table its report.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The panel has received multiple extensions since it began its deliberations. The last meeting that the panel held on the Bill was on May 17, 2022. The 31-member committee has only three women MPs.

According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin on October 17, House Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has granted another three-month extension to the panel till January 24, 2024, to present its report. The Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports functions under the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

India likely to sign deal with U.S. for 31 MQ-9B drones by February 2024

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The deal for 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with the U.S. is expected to be concluded by February 2024 and deliveries will begin from February 2027, three years from the signing of the contract, defence sources say.

"The deal is on track and the Letter of Offer and Acceptance [LOA] is now awaited from the U.S. The contract is expected to be concluded by February 2024," a defence source with knowledge of the matter said on Wednesday.

The UAV maker General Atomics (GA) is scheduled to establish a global maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility in India. But its location has not yet been finalised, the source said, adding that it could likely be Bengaluru.

General Atomics is scheduled to establish a global maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility in India. AFP

In June, the Defence Ministry cleared the procurement of 31 MQ-9B UAVs from GA, including 15 Sea Guardians for the Navy and eight Sky Guardians each for the Army and the Air Force, at an estimated cost of $3,072 million through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route. Following this, last month, just ahead of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, the Ministry issued the Letter of Request to the U.S. government.

Based on the LoR, the U.S. government and the Ministry will finalise the LOA. Details of equipment and terms of the procurement will be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS programme, the Ministry said earlier.

As part of the process, the U.S. administration will have to notify the U.S. Congress of the sale. The deal has to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security of the Indian government after which the contract will be concluded.

Ayodhya Ram temple trust receives FCRA licence to accept foreign donations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ayodhya Ram temple trust, known as the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, on Wednesday said that it has received a licence to accept foreign donations under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

The trust has already collected ₹3,500 crore in donations given by people across India. "The FCRA section of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has allotted the FCRA licence to Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust to accept the voluntary contribution from the foreign sources," the trust's general secretary Champat Rai said. He added that foreign donations would be accepted only at the State Bank of India branch at 11 Sansad Marg in New Delhi.

The Ram temple in Ayodhya is being built after the Supreme Court's 2019 judgment. R.V. MOORTHY

The Ram temple is being built after the Supreme Court's 2019 judgment, which maintained that the Muslim community was wrongfully deprived of the 450-year-old Babri masjid demolished in 1992, but rejected its claim for exclusive title and possession of the land in Ayodhya. The temple will thus be situated on the 67.3 acres of land accorded to the trust in the judgment. The temple construction committee has also acquired an additional 71 acres of land to build public utilities near the temple.

Nripendra Misra, chairman of the trust's construction committee, told *The Hindu* earlier this year that the temple's construction is being funded through donations from the public, adding that about ₹3,500 crore had been collected so far.

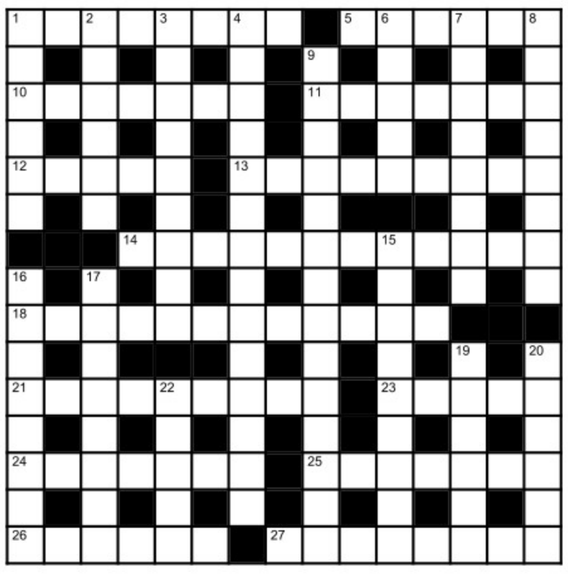
The trust maintained that the Ram temple would be inaugurated between January 14 and 24, 2024.

TH CROSSWORD + 13999

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Excited about a hotel on new German motorway (8)
5 Confined to bed with tumour, wanting money to receive assistance (4,2)
10 Obscure criminal ring largely smuggling ecstasy (7)
11 Quits business finally, stifled by rules (7)
12 Hunt and shoot (5)
13 Newspaper article about journalists getting persecuted (9)
14 Croons with verve, excited about current remake of song (5,7)
18 Spirited exchange of views resulting from that endless nude shot in film (3,3,6)
21 Confronting unionist perfectly to secure advantages (2,7)
23 Tropical shrub leaving one delirious, insane (5)
24 Dandy clothes with hair ribbon (7)
25 One finding iodine and traces of deuterium isotope in strange chemical element (7)
26 Ridicule communist backing immature concept (6)
27 Consuming ecstasy, violent behaviour by excited teenagers for example (3,5)

Down

1 Approach in treatment of cases having first sign of Covid-19 (6)
2 Soldier's helmet is so cool to wear (3,3)
3 Analysis of potassium in food by individual (9)
4 On the loose with gun, rampaging around department! Remain silent (4,4,6)
6 Path of Ahimsa is legendary (5)
7 Love taste of espresso, most strong after-dinner drink (8)
8 Writer having a miserable afternoon in American city (8)
9 Stop what one is doing, like a butterfingered person might? (4,10)
15 Confronting tigress in compound (9)
16 Cleansed by special cold massage on couch (8)
17 Briefly back to install shower screen (8)
19 Doing poorly after onset of ischaemia, becoming blue (6)
20 Become animated in contest! Removing top, jump around (4,2)
22 Leading man in a commercial (5)

SUDOKU

	6		5		9			4
			6					8
7				4			9	
	4					6	8	
8	1		9		4		3	2
	3	5					4	
	8			9				7
6					2			
5			8		3		1	

No.SS5953 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	N	O	H	O	L	D	S	B	A	R	R	E	D	
		V		N		I		R		A		N		
C	O	A	S	T		R	O	O	T	C	A	N	A	L
L		R		H		A		W		K		E		E
I	R	I	D	E	S	C	E	N	T		T	A	P	A
F		A		C				R		A		D		D
F	U	N	E	R	A	L		I	N	S	I	S	T	S
H				O		A		C		T				A
A	R	O	U	S	A	L		E	A	R	W	I	G	S
N		T		S		L				O		N		T
G	A	T	E		P	A	T	R	O	N	I	S	E	R
E		O		F		T		I		O		T		A
R	E	M	A	R	R	I	E	D		M	E	A	L	Y
		A		E		O		O		E		L		
	O	N	C	E	A	N	D	F	O	R	A	L	L	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	2	5	7	6	3	4	9
3	7	9	8	4	1	6	2	5
6	5	4	3	2	9	8	7	1
5	2	6	7	1	8	4	9	3
7	4	1	9	3	5	2	6	8
9	3	8	4	6	2	5	1	7
2	6	3	1	8	7	9	5	4
4	9	7	6	5	3	1	8	2
1	8	5	2	9	4	7	3	6

FAITH

Bhagavatam tells dharma

Srimad Bhagavatam begins with mangala slokas, where Lord Vishnu is described as *svaraat*, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. That means He is independent. He does not need anyone's help for His decisions or deeds. He is not bound by karma. His avataras were not due to karma, but due to His will. His brightness is not borrowed. The brightness of the Sun, Moon and agni come from Him. He taught Brahma the Vedas. He first created Brahma. Then came the five elements. Prakrti is real, and not illusory. His splendour lasts forever. Such a Paramatma is *satyam param*, says Srimad Bhagavatam. That is, He is the Ultimate and Absolute Truth.

Srimad Bhagavatam is all about dharma. It tells us about the Supreme One and instructs us on how to reach Him. It does not concern itself with petty pursuits. There are moha sastras which appeal to asuras. But Srimad Bhagavatam is not a moha sastra. It talks about that which pleases sadhus. It tells us about the dharma of those without pride or ego. There are three kinds of pride. One is the pride that comes to a person because he belongs to a certain family. The second kind of pride comes from education. The third kind of pride comes from wealth. Every one of these three prides will eventually destroy a man. Sadhus are free from any of these prides.

GENEVA

Situation in Gaza Strip 'spiralling out of control', says WHO chief

REUTERS

The situation in the Gaza Strip is spiralling out of control, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned on Wednesday, following a blast at a hospital that killed hundreds of people. "Every second we wait to get medical aid in, we lose lives," he added. AFP

BEIJING

World conflicts 'strengthen' ties with China, says Russia's Putin

AFP

Russian leader Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that world conflicts "strengthen" his country's relations with China, after talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing that celebrated their nations' deepening political and economic ties. The Russian leader also said he had "optimism" for the future of the relationship. AFP

WASHINGTON

Musk's X starts charging new users for basic features in two countries

REUTERS

The social media site X, formerly known as Twitter, said on Tuesday it has started charging new users in New Zealand and the Philippines for basic features such as posting messages in a trial aimed at reducing spam. It will cost around $0.75 per year for new users in the Philippines and $0.85 for those in New Zealand. AFP

BRASÍLIA

Bolsonaro should face charges for 'coup' attempt: congressional panel

REUTERS

A Brazilian congressional committee found on Tuesday former President Jair Bolsonaro should face charges of an attempted coup for his supporters' invasion of the presidential palace, Supreme Court and legislative headquarters in January. The report, however, does not legally bind the prosecutor general's office to act. AFP

Israel to allow aid to move into Gaza from Egypt: Biden

The care package will be let into Gaza after it is subjected to inspections, says Israel, adding that it should go to civilians and not Hamas militants; the nation thanks the U.S. for its firm support

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Wednesday that Israel had agreed to allow humanitarian assistance to begin flowing into Gaza from Egypt with the understanding it would be subject to inspections and that it should go to civilians and not Hamas militants.

In remarks from Tel Aviv where the President had gone to show support for Israel following the October 7 attack by Hamas that killed roughly 1,400 people, Mr. Biden cautioned the nation against all-consuming rage.

Israel cut off the flow of food, fuel and water in Gaza following the attack. Mediators have been struggling to break a deadlock over providing supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

Showing support: Joe Biden, left, during a meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the war, in Tel Aviv on Wednesday. REUTERS

Mr. Biden said he had spoken with the Israeli Cabinet "to agree to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance of civilians in Gaza".

"Let me be clear," Mr. Biden said, "if Hamas diverts or steals the assistance, they will have demonstrated once again that they have no concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people." He also said an additional $100 million in humanitarian assistance would be delivered to Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr. Biden told Mr. Netanyahu he was "deeply saddened and outraged" by the hospital explosion in Gaza on Tuesday, in which, according to Palestinian authorities, some 500 people were killed.

'Hamas is not civilians'

But he also stressed that "Hamas does not represent all the Palestinian people, and it has brought them only suffering". And he spoke of the need to find ways of "encouraging life-saving capacity to help the Palestinians who are innocent, caught in the middle of this".

Mr. Biden's overarching message was that the U.S. was firmly behind Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu called the U.S. President's visit "deeply, deeply moving," adding, "I know I speak for all the people of Israel when I say thank you Mr. President, thank you for standing with Israel today, tomorrow and always."

Europe condemns death of hundreds of civilians in attack on Gaza hospital

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

European leaders reacted to the death of hundreds of civilians at the al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza on Tuesday evening. Israel has claimed a missile fired by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad caused the destruction while militant group Hamas, which governs the Gaza strip, has blamed an Israeli air strike for the incident.

Speaking at the House of Commons on Wednesday, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the whole House was shocked by the scenes from the hospital.

"Any loss of innocent life is a dreadful tragedy," Mr. Sunak said.

British intelligence was independently analysing the information around the explosion, Mr. Sunak said, adding that he was not in a position to say anything further at this point. The U.K. was working with its allies and was trying to get humanitarian aid into Gaza, according to Mr. Sunak.

European politicians were careful about assigning blame for Tuesday's blast. "Last night, too many jumped to conclusions around the tragic loss of life at Al Ahli hospital," U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly wrote on X.

'Stay calm'

"Getting this wrong would put even more lives at risk," he said, urging people to stay calm and await the facts. On Tuesday night, he had said the protection of civilian lives must be the top priority and that the U.K. and its allies would "find out" what had happened.

Mr. Cleverly's tweet on Wednesday morning came shortly after news broke that U.S. President Joe Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel was not responsible for the attack.

"Based on what I've seen, it appears as though it was done by the other team, not you," Mr. Biden said during a visit to Tel Aviv on Wednesday.

"France condemns the attack on the Al-Ahli Arabi hospital in Gaza which caused so many Palestinian victims," French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X (formerly, Twitter), late on Tuesday night. Mr. Macron said nothing justified an attack on a hospital or on civilians and called for clarity around the circumstances of the attack.

The French President urged access to Gaza for delivering humanitarian aid. The strip of land has been sealed off by Israel in the north and Egypt in the south. The EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, also called for culpability for the crime to be established and accountability for the violence.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he was shocked by the images from the hospital. "Our hearts are with the families of the victims. It is important that all facts of this incident are disclosed very accurately," he wrote in Arabic on X.

Xi vows open markets for 'Belt and Road' projects

Associated Press
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping promised foreign companies greater access to China's huge market and more than $100 billion in new financing for other developing economies as he opened a forum on Wednesday on his signature Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

Mr. Xi's initiative has built power plants, roads, railroads and ports around the world and deepened China's ties with Africa, Asia, Latin America and the West Asia. But the massive loans backing the projects have burdened poorer countries with heavy debts, in some cases leading to China taking control of those assets.

At the forum, Mr. Xi promised that two Chinese-backed development banks will each set up 350 billion yuan ($47.9 billion) financing windows. An additional 80 billion yuan ($11 billion) will be invested in Beijing's Silk Road Fund to support BRI projects.

Escalating tensions in Gaza come under sharp focus in civil war-scarred Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan

Wickremesinghe had recently called for a 'four-state' solution to resolve the crisis

The escalating tensions in Gaza have come under sharp focus in Sri Lanka, an island nation that is struggling to get out of its own devastating civil war, nearly 15 years after it ended.

While President Ranil Wickremesinghe recently called for a "four-state" solution involving Israel, Gaza, Palestine, and Lebanon, to resolve the crisis, he also shared his concerns with caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday. The regional leaders are currently in China to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

According to an update posted by the Pakistani Prime Minister's office on social media platform X, the two leaders expressed "deep concern at the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by the ongoing Israeli attacks".

They called for "immediate cessation of hostilities by Israel; establishment of a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the besieged people of Gaza; and a two-state solution, resulting in the establishment of a viable and contiguous Palestinian State with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital", the post said.

Expressing solidarity

Meanwhile, key political actors from different parties in Sri Lanka have voiced concern on the ongoing violence.

Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa has called for an urgent parliamentary debate on the issue, while observing that "state terrorism" was leading to "hundreds of deaths".

On Wednesday, Mr. Premadasa presented a motion urging the House to call upon the UN to convene its Security Council to end the ongoing conflict. Terming the hospital bombing in Gaza a "massacre", he urged the permanent members of the UN to take necessary measures to stop the "ongoing terrorism and state terrorism".

The Gaza hospital attack comes days before Sri Lanka's Tamils, who bore the brunt of island's long civil war, commemorate the brutal attack on the Jaffna teaching hospital in 1987 by members of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

Some 70 civilians, including 21 medical personnel, were killed on October 21-22, 1987.

Prominent leaders have also visited the Palestinian Embassy in Colombo to express solidarity. Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa emphasised the urgency of peace in his recent meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador, Mr. Rajapaksa's office said.

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB,
Ayapakkam, Chennai – 600077.

INTIMATION OF OPENING OF ONLINE LINK

With reference to the Recruitment Notification of Technical Positions on Direct Recruitment basis at ICMR-NIE, ICMR-NIRT, Chennai and ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry, the online link for submission of application is now open at the following websites viz., **nie.gov.in, nirt.res.in, vcrc.icmr.org.in, icmr.nic.in**

DIRECTOR

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enq. No. 7476/P-2/EMP-12466 dt 17-10-23 Dy Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_111159_1 for Procurement of 1CX1000mm2 XLPE HT Cable reqd. for laying between Boiler Gate No. 1 & 6.6 KV CHP SWGR-2 in order to replace underground old PILCA cables at GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to *https://eproc.punjab.gov.in* from 17.10.2023 onwards.
Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP-120/23 **76155/12/2301/2023/28964**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
M.S. Building Bengaluru,

NO: RD 25 GRC 2019 Dated: 24.09.2020

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the reports of the District Magistrate, i.e Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that the WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.
And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.
And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to, defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited.
And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the District Magistrate, i.e Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited. Therefore, the Government hereby attaches all movable and immovable properties as specified in the Annexure1 and 2 to this order believed to have been acquired by the WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the WAM Services (OPC) Private Limited and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.
Note: All the aforesaid movable and immovable properties, from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

ಅನುಬಂಧ–1

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ವಿವರ (ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ)	ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕ	ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ	ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಖರೀದಿ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಷರಾ
1.	ಕೇರಳ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕಣ್ಣೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಣ್ಣೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಾವೀಲೈ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಪೇರಲಸ್ಸರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂ.92ರ 2 ಎಕರೆ 37 ಸೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಜಮೀನು. ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ (78.92 ಏರಿ) East: Mud road to Scheduled property, Othyoth Paramb North: Canal, Thodu, Mud road to Schedule property West: Nelleri Paramba South: No.2 Schedule Property ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ (16.18 ಏರಿ) East: In the Possession of Neyyoth Raghavan and other North: No. 1 Scheduled Property West: Nelleri Paramb, Nayikalla Chal paramba South: Nayikalla Chal Paramba	WAM Services (OPC) Pvt. Ltd.,	**Seller: Premavalli and others** Purchaser: WAM Services (OPC) Pvt. Ltd Sale deed No. P25 1577/2019 Dated: 03.06.2019 Office of the Sub Registrar Kadachira, Kerala State	-	50,57,184/-	ಕೇರಳ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕಣ್ಣೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕಣ್ಣೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಾವೀಲೈ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಪೇರಲಸ್ಸರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂ.92 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

DIPR/CP/1762/Zen/2023-24

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Under Secretary to Government Revenue Department (Special Cell)

INBRIEF

India extends curbs on sugar exports to calm local prices

India on Wednesday extended its restrictions on sugar exports beyond October, as the world's second-biggest producer tries to bring down domestic prices by increasing supplies ahead of key State elections. The curbs would likely spur benchmark prices in New York and London, where markets are already trading around multi-year highs, triggering fears of further inflation in food prices globally. The curbs have been in place for the past two years. REUTERS

Apollo allies with SAIL to open hospital in Rourkela

Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday opened a 290-bed, multi-specialty hospital in partnership with Steel Authority of India (SAIL), in Rourkela in western Odisha. The hospital, located near the Ispat General Hospital Road, would offer multi-disciplinary care in more than 10 specialty areas including cardiac, neurosciences, orthopaedics, urology, nephrology and oncology. The hospital has 7 operation theatres and 80 critical care beds, Apollo said in a statement.

LTTS shares fall 6% as firm cuts FY24 revenue guidance

Shares of L&T Technology Services (LTTS) declined almost 6% on Wednesday after the company lowered its revenue growth guidance for the current fiscal. The stock fell by 5.67% to settle at ₹4,353.95 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 5.85% to ₹4,345. At the NSE, it dropped 5.75% to end at ₹4,348. The company's market valuation fell by ₹2,764.3 crore to ₹46,025.45 crore. LTTS on Tuesday posted a 5% increase in September quarter net profit to ₹315.4 crore. PTI

Centre raises MSP for Rabi crops, farmers unhappy

Farmers' organisations say the minimum support prices do not match the increase in input costs; For wheat, the major Rabi crop, the increase is ₹150 per quintal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the finanicial year 2024-25. The increase for wheat, the major Rabi crop, is ₹150 per quintal and the new price will be ₹2,275.

Farmers' organisations have criticised the 'meagre' increase. The Centre procures wheat from about a dozen wheat-growing districts in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The two States are among those that will witness upcoming Assembly elections. The highest increase in MSP compared with last year is for lentils (masur) at ₹425 per quintal (new price: ₹6,425 per quintal) followed by rapeseed and mustard at ₹200 per quintal (new MSP: ₹5,650 per quintal).

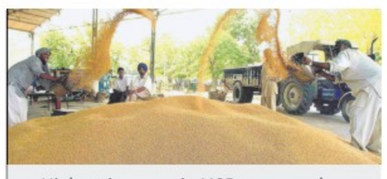
Farmers' organisations said the MSP did not match the increase in input costs. "Fertilizers and diesel prices have increased," said All India Kisan Saba leader from Rajasthan Amra Ram.

Coordinator of Bharatiya Kisan Union Pavel Kussa asked "Where is the procurement? Without procurement MSP is meaningless."

Seeking more

Farmers' organisations have criticised the increase as 'meagre'; they point to a mismatch between the support prices and costs

- They highlight the increase in diesel and fertilizer prices that spur input costs
- Farmer representatives also lament lack of govt participation in actual procurement after MSP is announced



- Highest increase in MSP compared with last year is for lentils (masur) at ₹425 per quintal

Insurance for staff using employer's car is must: IRDAI

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has directed insurers dealing in motor insurance to compulsorily provide as an inbuilt feature in the mandatory third party policy (TP) cover to employees who travel in employer's vehicle.

Mandating insurers to provide the cover under IMT-29 of Indian Motor Tariff, while issuing the mandatory TP to private car policy for such vehicles, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said no additional premium is to be charged till further notice.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,877	-0.83
US Dollar	83.28	-0.03
Gold	60,650	0.83
Brent oil	91.06	2.01

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2406.35	-22.05
Adani Ports	798.60	-6.50
Apollo Hosp	4977.25	-51.55
Asian Paints	3096.45	-17.10
Axis Bank	992.85	-15.20
Bajaj Auto	5137.35	-3.90
Bajaj Finserv	1628.20	-29.45
Bajaj Finance	7866.55	-226.45
Bharti Airtel	952.85	-0.80
BPCL	350.20	-4.50
Britannia Ind	4607.70	7.35
Cipla	1210.60	37.10
Coal India	316.95	-0.45
Divis Lab	3641.20	-5.40
Dr Reddys Lab	5677.45	133.35
Eicher Motors	3496.10	-4.75
Grasim Ind	1955.70	-18.75
HCL Tech	1269.45	-7.70
HDFC Bank	1519.75	-21.45
HDFC Life	645.00	3.20
Hero MotoCorp	3153.15	-19.80
Hindalco	485.05	0.70
Hind Unilever	2548.25	-7.90
ICICI Bank	943.75	-10.15
IndusInd Bank	1420.35	-15.65
Infosys	1440.55	-1.90
ITC	451.65	-1.80
JSW Steel	784.40	-5.75
Kotak Bank	1753.40	-18.15
L&T	3045.60	-20.70
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5155.20	-58.55
M&M	1574.85	-1.75
Maruti Suzuki	10788.45	37.65
NestleIndia	23262.95	-62.35
NTPC	242.00	-3.95
ONGC	186.95	0.70
PowerGrid Corp	206.50	-0.65
Reliance Ind	2324.00	-31.25
SBI Life	1356.35	8.00
State Bank	572.65	-3.80
Sun Pharma	1153.40	16.60
TataConsumerProduct	895.70	-12.15
Tata Motors	668.50	12.80
Tata Steel	127.10	-0.30
TCS	3487.25	-19.80
Tech Mahindra	1187.10	-10.50
Titan	3282.75	-25.70
UltraTech Cement	8278.30	-23.10
UPL	620.55	-4.35
Wipro	407.45	-3.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.06	83.38
Euro	87.69	88.03
British Pound	101.22	101.62
Japanese Yen (100)	55.47	55.68
Chinese Yuan	11.35	11.40
Swiss Franc	92.36	92.72
Singapore Dollar	60.63	60.87
Canadian Dollar	60.90	61.14
Malaysian Ringitt	17.49	17.57
Australian Dollar	52.90	53.11

Source:Indian Bank

GM must consider higher severance, says CM Shinde

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has urged Hyundai Motors, the new owners of the shuttered General Motors India (GM India) plant in the State, to consider absorbing some of the striking workers when the carmaker plans to begin operations in 2025. Mr. Shinde also asked GM to consider a higher severance pay for willing employees.

"The Maharashtra government stands firmly with the workers of the closed General Motors project," the CM's Office said in a statement after a meeting at Mr. Shinde's official residence on Thursday. As per the statement, the CM would follow up with Hyundai to find employment opportunities for the striking workers.

The meeting, attended by Industries Minister Uday Samant and his Labour counterpart Dr. Suresh Khade, among others, also asked GM to "reconsider" the demand for enhanced severance for those workers who are willing to accept it.

Of 1,578 GM India workers, 696 had accepted the severance offered to them. The rest are challenging their "illegal" termination in court. When contacted, a GM Employees Union leader welcomed the government's statement but said the strike would continue until it saw a "concrete" outcome.

CIL to lift more coal from below ground

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Coal India Limited (CIL) is planning to scale up production from its underground (UG) mines to 100 Million Tonnes (MT) by 2030 through a slew of mass production technologies alongside a revenue sharing model with private entrepreneurs.

Till September 17, CIL, the largest coal producing company in the world, had produced about 12 MT of coal from underground coal mines.

"This is a 4.1% growth over the same period last year," a CIL official said. "The targeted output through UG mines for FY 2023-24 is 30 MTs," the official added.

The thrust by CIL on increasing output from UG mines comes at a time when 96% of its output was from open cast (OC) mines.

'Hydrogen gear market in India to touch $50 bn by '30'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Industry body India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A) said it expects the domestic hydrogen equipment manufacturing and services market to reach $45-50 billion by 2030.

This market assessment includes all hydrogen production plant equipment, including electrolyser and balance-of-plant equipment that can be deployed in India and exported to countries in Asia, West Asia and Africa, IH2A said in a report.

This will help India become a supply chain hub for green hydrogen projects, it said, and forecast a $36-billion regional equipment and exports market.

Wipro Q2 net flat on macro slowdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thierry Delaporte

Wipro Ltd., the Bengaluru-based technology services firm, on Wednesday posted flat overall growth due to the macroeconomic slowdown and cutbacks in discretionary spend in global markets.

Consolidated net profit was ₹2,667.3 crore, compared with ₹2,649 crore a year earlier. Revenue from operations stood at ₹22,515 crore, compared with ₹22,539 crore. The company's revenue from the IT services segment was at $2,713.3 million, a sequential decline of 2.3%.

For the December quarter, the company said it expected IT Services revenue to be in the range of $2,617 million to $2,672 million, a sequential decline of -3.5% to -1.5% in constant currency terms.

Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte said, "We ended the second quarter with 22 accounts above $100M, double the number we had in FY21. Our large deal total contract value was highest in nine quarters."

He added that the focus was to reduce the number of smaller accounts as such accounts weren't yielding adequate returns.

Welspun One, Murugappa arm sign pact for EV facility

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Welspun One Logistics Parks on Wednesday said it has inked a leasing pact with Murugappa Group's EV manufacturing arm Montra Electric to develop a build-to-suit facility.

Under the partnership, Welspun One will construct the facility, encompassing a dedicated assembly space tailored for four-wheeler small commercial electric vehicles and a retail experience centre, the company said.

The project is part of a ₹2,500 crore invsetment MoU signed by Welspun One with the Tamil Nadu government to foster regional economic growth, the company added.

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com

No: SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/DIET/04/2023-24 Dated: 17-10-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed e-tenders are invited by interested eligible firms in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for **Diet Articles for Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital coming under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
Tenders may be submitted after viewing details regarding tender form, EMD and Terms & Conditions etc. at Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** DD for **Rs. 5,000/-** towards tender processing fee (Non-refundable) shall be submitted in favour of The **Director Cum Dean, SABVMCRI, Bengaluru** and acknowledgment thereof shall be enclosed along with e-tender. Interested tenderers should register in e-Procurement Portal. Details required for registration may be viewed at website. For further details please contact e-mail: **sabvmcri@gmail.com** and Phone No: **+91 8431186388.**
1) Date of Downloading Tender Documents is **from 20-10-2023. 2)** Last Date for Queries: **27-10-2023 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Last date and time for Uploading of Tenders: **06-11-2023 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Last Date of Sample Submission: **20-10-2023 to 04-11-2023 from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** Place: **SABVMCRI, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru - 560001. 5)** Date of Opening Technical Bids: **08-11-2023 at 10.30 AM. 6)** Date of Opening Financial Bids: **09-11-2023 at 11.30 AM.**
In case, if further details are required in this regard, please contact the Director Cum Dean/Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean
SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1755/Adverto/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: SA-E13-2023-24-W
Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tender for the undermentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, lender submission, etc., can he viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.irepa.gov.in.**

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E13-2023-24-W1 Dt 13/10/2023 SA Division - Annual Repair Contract (ARC) for 3 Nos of Omega make Lifts available at ED PF 1/2 (EL- 201520400) ED PF 3/4(EL- 201520401) and CBF PF 3/4 (EL-201621524) for a period of 3 Years	Approx cost Rs. 3,28,746.21/- EMD Rs. 6,600.00/- Completion Period 6 Months
2) SA-E13-2023-24-W2 Dt 13/10/2023 SA Division ADEN/S/SA Jurisdiction-Soft upgrades to stations Mavellipalayam, Magudanchavadi, Veerapandi and Karuppur stations - Electrical arrangements.	Approx cost Rs 19,16,319.00 EMD -Rs 38,300.00/- Completion Period 6 Months
3) SA-E13-2023-24-W3 Dt 13/10/2023 Provision of power supply arrangements to CNC Underfloor Wheel lathe at Coimbatore Depot.	Approx cost Rs 4,13,664.00/- EMD Rs 8,300.00/- Completion Period 6 Months
4) SA-E13-2023-24-W4 Dt 13/10/2023 SA Division: Construction of OHT 1.25LL (each) & 1.5 LL GLR (each) Tirupattur, Saamalpatti, Bommidi, Morappur with treatment units including Rain Water harvesting Electrical arrangements.	Approx cost Rs 1,975,617.00 EMD -Rs 39,500.00 - Completion Period-180 days
5) SA-E13-2023-24-W5 Dt 13/10/2023 SA Division - Extension of Pitline from 10 coach length to 24 coach length with provision of 24 coach length catwalk facilities on both sides at Erode Railway station- Electrical arrangements.	Approx cost-Rs 79,72,824.00 EMD -Rs 1,59,500.00 Completion Period - 6 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date 15.00hrs. on 13/11/2023	
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date 15.30hrs. on 13/11/2023	

All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**, only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

U.S. FDA advises action at Biocon Malaysian arm's unit, shares slide

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Biocon shares ended more than 6% lower on Wednesday in the wake of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) classifying the insulin manufacturing facility of the drugmaker's step-down Malaysian subsidiary as Official Action Indicated (OAI).

Biocon Sdn Bhd. has received communication from the regulator pursuant to July cGMP inspection of its insulin manufacturing facility in Johor, Malaysia. The U.S. FDA had determined the inspection classification as OAI, a "status that may cause delay and/or withholding of pending product approvals or supplements from the facility," Biocon said.

The development saw Biocon shares ending 6.21% lower on the BSE at ₹238.55 each.

A leader in insulin production, Biocon said it did not expect the development to have a material impact on the manufacturing and distribution of the company's commercial products for the U.S. market. It said a comprehensive corrective and preventive Action (CAPA) plan had been submitted to the U.S. FDA in response to observations from the July inspection and "believe we are on track to complete all actions as committed."

On July 21, Biocon said U.S. FDA held two cGMP inspections at the facility. On conclusion, the U.S. FDA had issued Form 483 with six observations, primarily relating to enhancing operational procedures and strengthening training programmes.

Neo raises $35 mn from Peak XV Partners

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Neo Wealth and Asset Management, a part of Neo Group, on Wednesday said it has raised $35 million (around ₹300 crore) in a funding round from Peak XV Partners.

The fund will aid in catalysing growth initiatives at Neo, develop and expand the wealth management business, deepen the asset management franchise, and help attract top talent, the company said. Peak XV, formerly Sequoia Capital India and SEA, is a global venture capital firm.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Vijaypur, Jammu – 184120

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR HIRING OF REPUTED FIRM/COMPANY/AGENCY FOR PROVIDING HOSTEL MESS AND CAFETERIA SERVICES AT AIIMS, VIJAYPUR, JAMMU.

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring of Reputed firm/Company/Agency for providing Hostel Mess and Cafeteria Services at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu has been published in CPP Portal, GoI on **17th October, 2023** vide EOI reference No. AIIMS/JMU/EOI/SERVICES/2023/1 dated 17th October, 2023 and tender ID **2023_AIMSJ_731053_1**. Bidders interested to provide the services may please download. the. EOI document either from CPP Portal, GoI. **(https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app)** or the website of AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu. **(https://www.aiimsjammu.edu.in/open-tenders/).**

2.. Any Bidder/owner who is unable to download the EOI document can also collect the same (Hard copy) from the office of the Dy. Director (Admin) located at **GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001** during working Hours (9.30 AM to 5.30 PM).

3. All bidders/owners are advised to regularly visit the CPP Portal and AIIMS, Vijaypur Jammu website for issue of corrigendum/amendments (if any).

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
For and on behalf of Executive Director & CEO
AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Smt. Sowmya John Sunil W/o Sri. John Sunil, Residing at No. 204, Space Time Gardenia Apartment, Muneswara Layout Main Road, Seenappa Layout, Devarachikkana Halli Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560076 and his Vendors "MEADOWS SONG", Rep by its partners Sri. H.R. Ravichandra and Smt. Hema Ravichandra Reddy, both at No. 748, 18th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 have agreed to convey and transfer the property described in the Schedule hereunder to my clients for valuable consideration.

Any person or persons having or asserting any manner of right, title, lien, claim or interest in, to or upon the said property, and /or any part or portion thereof is/are required to intimate the in writing, supported by documentary evidence thereof, to the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS from the publication hereof, falling which all such rights and claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned, and my clients will proceed as if no valid claims are subsisting against the property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential site bearing No. 57, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft, formed in "Meadows Song", carved in Sy.No. 34/3 and 35, situated at Begur Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru – 560068 and bounded on:

East : Site No. 48,
West : 9 Meters Road,
North : Site No. 58,
South : Site No. 56.

ADVOCATE
(R.S. PRASANNA KUMAR)

Office at:
#19/1, 2nd Floor, S-6,
K.C.D. Complex, C.S.I. Compound,
3rd Cross, Mission Road,
Bengaluru - 560 027.
Phone No: 99801 75904, 98441 75904.

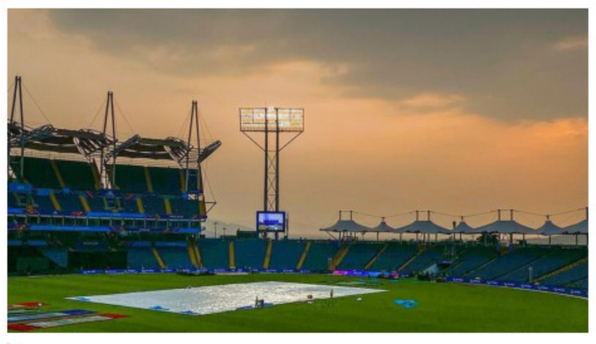
TOUGH CALL

Difficult to miss someone like Suryakumar, says Mhambrey

India's Mr. 360 may have to wait his turn to make his 50-over World Cup debut. India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said: "Surya is a champion, a match-winner and a difficult batter to bowl to. It is difficult to miss someone like him, but in whose place can he play, that is the question."

IDEAL SETTING

Fans would be happy about dry weather forecast for the match



Pune, with an elevation of 1840 feet above sea level, is known for an equitable weather. The monsoon, though, has been middling so far and the citizens here are worried about a shortage of water. However, the fans would rather prefer dry weather over the probability of rains for the World Cup game on Thursday.

BEEN A WHILE

India meets Bangladesh in an ODI at home after 25 years

India and Bangladesh will face off for the fifth time in an ODI World Cup match, at the MCA Stadium in Pune on Thursday. The Men in Blue had lost their first meeting in the 2007 edition in Port of Spain. Thursday's fixture will also mark the first ODI between the teams in India since the 1998 Coca-Cola tri-series that also involved Kenya.

DEAD-BATTING

Don't know if we are missing Tamim: coach Hathurusingha

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha brushed aside questions on the absence of Tamim Iqbal, *in pic*, in the squad ahead of its clash against India. "He was not ready at the time of selection. His record as a player is good. I don't know if we are missing him... we have players here whom we trust to do the job."

India finds itself in perfect space but Bangladesh can be a tricky customer

The latter has fitness concerns as regards its skipper Shakib and a call on his availability will be taken in the morning; the hosts' bowling unit looks settled and it will be interesting to see if Ashwin or Shami gets into the playing eleven; the visitors will be determined to lift their game

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PUNE

It takes one day – is the theme of the current World Cup. Across venues, these words leap from ICC banners. Perhaps it is the unspoken motto within the teams as fortunes get altered and a new dawn is embraced. True to that spirit, Afghanistan and the Netherlands ambushed England and South Africa respectively because all it takes is just one day.

However, if one team has retained its rich vein of form so far in this championship, it has to be India. With three wins on the trot, the Men in Blue have been on an upward climb even if the peak of lifting the World Cup remains an evolving dream. A familiar rival awaits India in the match at the MCA Stadium here on Thursday. Bangladesh, a neighbour with a long border and a shared love for Bengali and riverine fishes like the hilsa, has hurt India in the past.

The two distinct banana peels for India were the matches in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies and the 2012 Asia Cup in Dhaka. The first loss saw India crashing out of the premier tournament and the then distraught skipper Rahul Dravid is now the coach while the second defeat ruined Sachin Tendulkar's special night after he had registered his 100th international hundred. Recently, Bangladesh overcame India with a six-run win in the Asia Cup joust in Colombo on Sept. 15.

Yet, India would fancy its chances while being guarded. Rohit Sharma's men have ticked most boxes with the batting and bowling arms being in sync. Runs posted, wickets claimed and catches taken, cricket's elementary nuances have all been seemingly mastered by the host even if these are early days for a long-winding tournament. While the playing eleven seems set, it remains to be seen if Mohammed Shami or R. Ashwin get a toe-in, a prospect that bowling coach Paras Mhambrey did not commit upon in the pre-game media interaction.

Gearing up: Gill will be itching to have a go at the Bangladesh attack. K.R. DEEPAK

Today's match

India vs. Bangladesh

Pune, **2 p.m.**

EYE ON THE SKY

High: 34°C
Low: 21°C
Mainly clear
SOURCE: IMD

H2H IN ODIs

	M	India	Bangladesh	NR
Overall	40	31	8	1
In India	3	3	0	0
In World Cup	4	3	1	0

2007: Bangladesh **won by five wickets** (group stage), Port of Spain
2011: India **won by 87 runs** (group stage), Mirpur
2015: India **won by 109 runs** (quarterfinal), Melbourne
2019: India **won by 28 runs** (round-robin), Birmingham

On match-eve, a warm sun beat down on the grass and India would hope that its strategies remain efficient and the game would be as easy as dunking this city's favourite Shrewsbury cookies into a cup of tea. Obviously, Bangladesh will have other plans.

The old duo of skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim may be the fulcrum but there are fitness concerns around the former, which he partially allayed with a stint in the nets on Tuesday. However, a final call on the Bangladeshi skipper's availability will be taken on Thursday morning.

Having lost two out of three tussles in this World Cup, the visitors have to lift their game.

Bangladesh does know a trick or two about cutting down the Big Brother to size, starting from 2007. India, though, would prefer to stay imposing, like the rolling hills around the venue.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (wk), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav.

Bangladesh: Shakib Al Hasan (Capt.), Najmul Hossain, Litton Das, Towhid Hridoy, Tanzid Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mahmudullah, Mahedi Hasan, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Nasum Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib.

Umpires: Adrian Holdstock and Richard Kettleborough; **Third umpire:** Kumar Dharmasena; **Match referee:** Andrew Pycroft.

Match starts at 2 p.m.

We pick a squad we feel is the best, says Mhambrey

Spin king: Jadeja's accurate spells have been working wonders in the middle-overs. K.R. DEEPAK

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PUNE

India's bowling unit may not necessarily sport a change in the days ahead. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey stated that for now a rotation olicy is not part of the plans. "It is important to maintain the start. As of now there is no discussion of a kind of rotation. It is important to carry this momentum for the next game," Mhambrey told the media at the MCA Stadium here on Wednesday.

Be it Mohammed Shami or R. Ashwin, two key men, who are warming the benches, Mhambrey stressed that omitting them is never easy. "We pick a squad we feel is the best for that wicket. Sometimes Shami will miss out, someone like Ash (Ashwin) will miss out," Mhambrey said while also effusively praising the skill sets of Shami and Ashwin.

The bowling coach was extremely pleased while talking about Jasprit Bumrah's comeback and Kuldeep Yadav's return to form: "Bumrah gives you that breakthrough in the PowerPlays, is well adapted to bowl in the middle and is a top-gun bowler at the death. As for Kuldeep, he has worked on his action, his speeds have gone up, accuracy is up there and he is hitting those lengths consistently. He is a wicket-taking option."

Terming rival Bangladesh as a quality side, Mhambrey said: "Every game and every opponent is important. We have our plans and if we execute our stuff, we will win." And about the pitch, he declared: "It is a challenging surface as the ball comes on to the bat very well. It is a small ground, high altitude too, so more boundaries and sixes will be scored."

When queried about the Pakistan Cricket Board's complaint to the ICC about the visa-issue and the crowd's behaviour at Ahmedabad, Mhambrey replied: "It is not my domain and I really cannot answer that."

Scary the way India is playing, says Hathurusingha

Lalith Kalidas
PUNE

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha was wary of the fresh pitch at the MCA Stadium for the match against India leaning towards another feast for the batters. His team's batters have had two poor outings in succession, failing to cross the 250-run mark against England and the Kiwis.

"This is the best batting wicket we have come across so far. Even the practice wickets were similar, really good. We haven't put up a complete batting performance or, for that matter, a complete performance with bat and ball. But we know that we can beat big teams if we play to our potential," he said.

The Tigers have enjoyed a 3-1 record over India in ODIs since December 2022, including a win in the recent Asia Cup, but Hathurusingha downplayed any advantages on the high-pressure stage.

"We have had success recently against India, but it's a completely different game at the World Cup. If they slip-up and we play to our potential, I think we will have a good match," he said. While Hathurusingha admitted that the Tigers could rearrange their bowling line-up on a flat surface, he conceded that the host has looked menacing, having hit its straps early with three wins. "They have good strike bowlers. (Jasprit) Bumrah is back to his best. It's scary the way they are playing without fear and it looks like they are enjoying their cricket at the moment," he said.

Strikeforce: Mustafizur would hope to rattle India's top-order with some quick wickets. K.R. DEEPAK

India can't afford to relax against Bangladesh

Sunil Gavaskar

Post India's fabulous victory over Pakistan, after the massive hype that the match had generated, there will be a tendency among fans to think the matches against the other sub-continent teams could well be easy. It would do well to remember that last year, Bangladesh won the ODI series against India. Their white-ball teams are far more competitive than the red-ball ones and given a semblance of a chance can make life difficult for the opposition.

India could well be feeling like a batter who relaxes his guard just a little bit after he has completed a century. That little relaxing makes him lose his wicket. That said, the fact that Shubman Gill, Kohli, Rahul and Shreyas haven't got a century so far will certainly make them hungry. Hardik spent a short time in the middle against Australia while Jadeja hasn't had a hit so far and there will be lots of hunger there.

Whether Bumrah will be rested against Bangladesh and saved for the big-ticket clash against New Zealand in Dharamshala barely a couple of days after the Bangladesh game will be interesting to see.

Bangladesh have struggled to get off to a good start and if one looks around, the teams that have not got a good opening stand have found it tough to put up a big total.

Apart from Bumrah, India's other trump card is Kuldeep Yadav. The left-armer has bowled quite superbly, varying his line smartly and getting enough turn to induce a false stroke.

The Indian captain Rohit Sharma has been breathtaking with his batting and his captaincy has been even more impressive. His calmness even when Pakistan were at 150 for just two made sure that the body language of his team was positive. His bowling changes were spot on and that gave the bowlers the breather to keep going when they were brought back for another spell.

It's going well for India but there is still work to do and tough opponents to face. A couple of battles are won but there are weeks to go for the war to finish.

(Professional Management Group)

Potent duo: Shami will be keen to pair with Bumrah sooner than later. K.R. DEEPAK

Kiwis continue to soar, send sloppy Afghanistan tumbling down to earth

Half-centuries by skipper Latham and Phillips and their 144-run stand propel New Zealand to 288 before Ferguson and Santner combine to throw the chase off track for a fourth win in as many games; the victory takes the Black Caps to the top of the table while the Afghans slip to ninth

ODI WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Afghanistan, flying high after the win over England, was brought down to the ground by a clinical performance from New Zealand which handed the former a 149-run defeat at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday.

Asked to bat first, half-centuries from skipper Tom Latham (68) and Glenn Phillips (71) helped the Black Caps post 288 for six.

On a two-paced pitch, with the ball holding off the surface, Latham and Phillips combined well for a 144-run stand for the fifth wicket to bail their side out of a tricky situation and end up with an above-par score. In reply, Afghanistan's chase never found any rhythm with Matt Henry and Trent Boult removing the openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran respectively.

Later, Lockie Ferguson (3/19) and Mitchell Santner (3/39) chipped in with wickets at regular intervals to shoot out Afghanistan for just 139.

Afghanistan had its moments in the match with the ball to press ahead, but some poor fielding – they dropped four catches – and sensible approach from Latham and Phillips proved too good for Hashmatullah Shahidi's men.

In the afternoon, Will Young (54) and Rachin Ravindra laid a solid platform for the Kiwis with a 79-run stand for the second wicket. Young – dropped on one by Rahmat Shah at first slip off left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi – quickly went after the spinners, using his feet against Mohammed Nabi to hit a couple of sixes before cutting Rashid Khan behind point twice as he got to his second half-century of the tournament. Then, medium-pacer Azmatullah Omarzai gave Afghanistan an opening with twin strikes in the 21st over. He first castled Ravindra, going for a slog before Young inside-edged to the 'keeper who took a brilliant catch diving to his left.

When Daryl Mitchell pulled Rashid straight to short midwicket, New Zealand was in trouble at 110 for four, losing three wickets in nine deliveries for just one run.

Then Latham and Phillips played some old-fashioned one-day cricket, patiently rotating the strike through the middle-phase of the innings and even playing out the odd maiden.

The first sign of aggression came when Phillips swept Nabi over midwicket for a six before he guided Rashid down the fine-leg fence. He then launched into left-arm pacer Farooqi with two consecutive sixes, one over midwicket and the other over square-leg, to step on the accelerator.

After his half-century, Latham – who was dropped twice on 35 and 38 off Rashid – went after Omarzai, smashing the pacer for two sixes and a four in one over. New Zealand scored 103 in the last 10 overs to finish with a total which was way beyond Afghanistan's reach.

The protagonists: Santner spun a web around the Afghanistan batters after Phillips' innings had piloted New Zealand to a big score.
M. VEDHAN

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	4	4	0	8	1.923
India	3	3	0	6	1.821
South Africa	3	2	1	4	1.385
Pakistan	3	2	1	4	-0.137
England	3	1	2	2	-0.084
Bangladesh	3	1	2	2	-0.699
Australia	3	1	2	2	-0.734
Netherlands	3	1	2	2	-0.993
Afghanistan	4	1	3	2	-1.250
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	-1.532

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Devon Conway lbw b Mujeeb 20 *(18b, 3x4)*, Will Young c Alikhil b Omarzai 54 *(64b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Rachin Ravindra b Omarzai 32 *(41b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Ibrahim b Rashid 1 *(7b)*, Tom Latham b Naveen 68 *(74b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips c Rashid b Naveen 71 *(80b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Mark Chapman (not out) 25 *(12b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mitchell Santner (not out) 7 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-4, w-5, nb-1): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 288.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-30 (Conway, 6.3 overs), 2-109 (Ravindra, 20.2), 3-110 (Young, 20.6), 4-110 (Mitchell, 21.4), 5-254 (Phillips, 47.1), 6-255 (Latham, 47.3).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Mujeeb 10-0-57-1, Farooqi 7-1-39-0, Naveen 8-0-48-2, Nabi 8-1-41-0, Rashid 10-0-43-1, Omarzai 7-0-56-2.

AFGHANISTAN

Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Henry 11 *(21b, 1x6)*, Ibrahim Zadran c Santner b Boult 14 *(15b, 2x4)*, Rahmat Shah c & b Ravindra 36 *(62b, 1x4)*, Hashmatullah Shahidi c Santner b Ferguson 8 *(29b, 1x4)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Latham b Boult 27 *(32b, 2x4)*, Ikram Alikhil (not out) 19 *(21b, 3x4)*, Mohammad Nabi b Santner 7 *(9b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan c Mitchell b Ferguson 8 *(13b, 1x6)*, Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Young b Ferguson 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Naveen-ul-Haq c Chapman b Santner 0 *(1b)*, Fazalhaq Farooqi c Mitchell b Santner 0 *(2b)*; Extras (w-5): 5; Total (in 34.4 overs): 139.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Gurbaz, 5.5), 2-27 (Ibrahim, 6.1), 3-43 (Hashmatullah, 13.6), 4-97 (Omarzai, 25.4), 5-107 (Rahmat, 28.1), 6-125 (Nabi, 30.4), 7-134 (Rashid, 33.3), 8-138 (Mujeeb, 33.6), 9-139 (Naveen, 34.2).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Boult 7-1-18-2, Henry 5-2-16-1, Santner 7.4-0-39-3, Ferguson 7-1-19-3, Phillips 3-0-13-0, Ravindra 5-0-34-1.

Toss: Afghanistan; **PoM:** Phillips.
New Zealand won by 149 runs.

Next assignment

NEW ZEALAND: October 22 vs. **India,** *Dharamshala, 2 p.m.*

AFGHANISTAN: October 23 vs. **Pakistan,** *Chennai, 2 p.m.*

We couldn't put pressure on the Kiwis for long: Trott

Striking early: Henry nailed the in-form Gurbaz with an in-dipper.
M. VEDHAN

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott credited New Zealand for a superb show that put it on top of the table here on Wednesday.

"I think New Zealand played well, but got into a difficult position after we took quick wickets. However, we couldn't put pressure on them for long enough. We dropped (Tom) Latham twice but credit to them for the way they played and steadied the ship... they steered the team to a defendable total," said Trott.

Azmatullah Omarzai provided the silver lining for Afghanistan on the day. The 23-year-old all-rounder picked up two wickets in one over before battling with the bat in what proved a losing cause.

"I see him with a very bright future with both bat and ball. His batting, at the moment, is developing really well. I have always rated him as a bowler and his bowling has improved leaps and bounds.

"I wanted him to bat a little longer in this match and get a few more runs, but unfortunately he couldn't quite get it right," said Trott.

"It certainly wasn't a 130 pitch. Yes, it did spin a little more towards the end but I feel that the seamers did all the damage. We were 28 for two after the first Power-Play, and when you are chasing 280, it will put a lot of pressure on the players down the order," said Trott about the team's batting effort.

Santner's 100

Mitchell Santner, who took three wickets against Afghanistan, became the second Kiwi spinner after Daniel Vettori to take 100 ODI scalps. "It's nice to get to that milestone. I wasn't thinking about it too much leading into the game. I was just trying to perform my role and do a job out there just like every other game," said the 31-year-old.

Santner also felt that the pitch aided the spinners during the second innings.

"It played a bit different from the one against Bangladesh. That one had more pace and bounce than this one. This looked a bit drier and it was nice to see it spin a little more than in the first innings in the afternoon," he said.

Van Meekeren — the delivery boy who delivered big for the Dutch

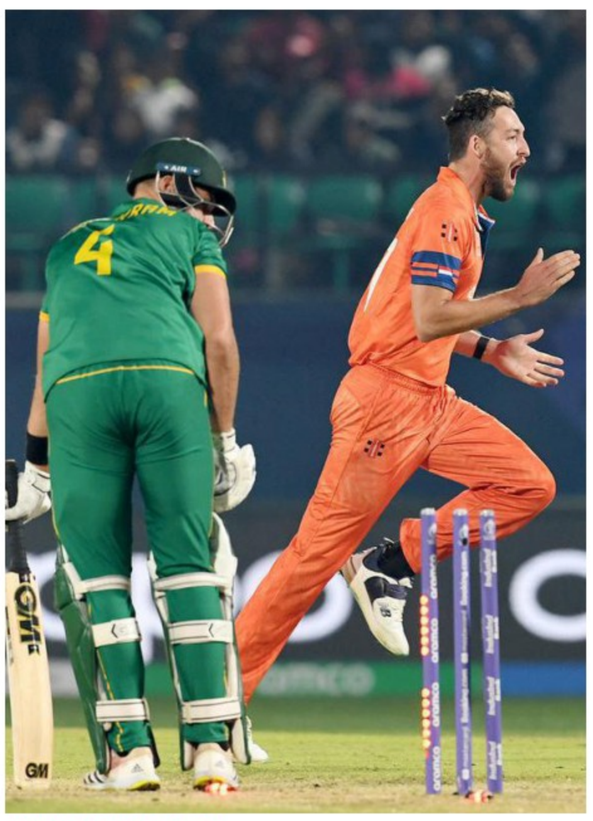
N. Sudarshan
DHARAMSHALA

This may be an era of short attention span and fading memories, but social media has its own way of remembering. On Tuesday, even as the cricketing world was still coming to terms with Netherlands' sensational win over South Africa in the World Cup, the online world dug out the rags-to-riches story of Dutch pacer Paul van Meekeren.

In November 2020, when the T20 World Cup was originally slated to be held in Australia but was cancelled because of Covid, van Meekeren was working as a delivery agent for food ordering company Uber Eats.

"Should've been playing cricket today, now I'm delivering Uber eats to get through the winter months!! Funny how things change... hahaha... keep smiling people," the burly van Meekeren had posted online.

Three years on, the Amsterdam native was one of the stars of the victory over Temba Bavuma's men, bowling nine overs for 40 runs and picking up two wickets, including the prized scalp of Aiden Markram who was castled by a ball that nipped back in.



How the night changes! van Meekeren, who once had a different calling, is back excelling on the cricket field. R.V. MOORTHY

"In the innings break there was a clear message about bowling cross seams," a jubilant van Meekeren told reporters in the mixed zone.

"We felt the wicket was a bit two-paced. And we knew we had to start well because their [South Africa's] top-six had a lot of firepower. But from seven onwards, we felt there's a real weakness."

"If you get the opportunity to open up one end, you have to take it. We didn't do that against Pakistan in the first game but here we just didn't hold back."

Compared to the nine other nations competing in India, Netherlands is not blessed with eye-popping talent. But what it lacks in star power, it makes up with sheer team effort and some street-smart cricket.

Against the Proteas, No. 9 batter Roelof van der Merwe and No. 10 Aryan Dutt were the second and third-highest run-getters behind skipper Scott Edwards.

"I think I'm the only player who's not in the batting meeting," said a grinning van Meekeren, who bats at No. 11. "But we know we've got that firepower all the way [down]. You saw Aryan at No. 10 hitting some big bombs.

Bat deep

"We bat deep but weren't able to set that platform in the first two games.

"Maybe a bit of rustiness or World Cup fever. But we are getting into that rhythm of playing big teams and doing the right things for longer."

With more performances like Tuesday's, the world will need no reminding of van Meekeren and his teammates.

Henry has quietly pulled his weight

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

New Zealand has gotten out of the blocks strongly with four straight wins, with various individuals stepping up in different situations.

While there have been some standout performers – Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra scored tons, Mitchell Santner got a five-wicket haul – one person who has quietly flown under the radar, much like how his team operates at global ICC events, is Matt Henry. "It's been a fantastic four years for most of us to get here to India, and it's been a great start for us. But we also recognise that this is a long tournament with a lot of work ahead of us," Henry had said ahead of the match against Afghanistan.

Known for his ability to swing the new ball – his three top-order wickets against India in the 2019 semifinal derailed the chase – the 31-year-old has also been effective during the middle-overs.

Against England, Henry kept things tight with the new ball and gave the first breakthrough (Dawid Malan) before accounting for Jos Buttler with a wobbled seam in his second spell.

Similarly, he accounted for a well-set Mushfiqur Rahim in the last game against Bangladesh while he cleaned up the tail against The Netherlands.

On Wednesday against Afghanistan, he built up the pressure with a misery spell upfront, including the key scalp of the in-form Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

On the challenge of making things happen during the second PowerPlay when there is not much lateral movement, and the ball becomes old, Henry said, "That's why you have to use your lengths wisely, and I believe Shane Jurgensen (bowling coach) has been brilliant with our bowling group by ensuring that we are well-prepared and have options to try to exploit different areas of different batters."

It's not panic stations yet: coach Mott

ANI
MUMBAI

England white-ball head coach Matthew Mott confessed that his team "didn't fire a shot" in Sunday's shocking 69-run defeat against Afghanistan and that they needed to re-establish confidence.

"I thought the boys were really up for it, but we didn't really fire a shot from the start. We were just a bit off in every aspect of the game. It's not panic stations yet, but it's nowhere near the start that we were hoping for," Mott said.

INBRIEF

Bond parts ways with Mumbai Indians

Former New Zealand pacer Shane Bond has ended his nine year association as Mumbai Indians bowling coach, the Indian Premier League franchise announced on Wednesday. Bond, who has been associated with MI since 2015, won four IPL trophies (2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020) as the bowling coach. Bond made the decision to part ways with MI after the five-time IPL champion appointed Lasith Malinga as its bowling coach for season 2024.The 48-year-old Kiwi also quit as MI Emirates head coach.India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has credited Bond for shaping his skills in the early stages of his career.

Top seed Nick Chappell defeats Woobin Shin

Top seed Nick Chappell defeated Woobin Shin 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF Dharwad Men's World Tennis Tour at the Dharwad District Lawn Tennis Association on Wednesday. Fourth seed Indian Ramkumar Ramanathan *(in pic)* took out qualifier Faisal Qamar 7-6(3), 6-2. Second seed Bogdan Bobrov quelled the challenge of qualifier Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-2, 6-4.

Ashco HC steamrollers Anglo Indian HC

Ashco HC whipped Anglo Indian HC 6-0 in the KSHA-BHA 'C' Division hockey championship in Bengaluru.

The result: Ashco HC 6 (Rahul 1, 23, S. Irfan 12, Muhammed Siyas 29, 46, Naseer 35) bt Anglo Indian HC 0.

Karnataka teams post wins in SZ sub-junior hockey

Karnataka boys and girls registered victories in the South Zone sub-junior (u-15) hockey championships in Chennai on Wednesday.

The results: Boys: Karnataka bt AP 3-2; Kerala bt Telangana 8-0; HUTN bt Le Puducherry 4-1. **Girls:** Kerala bt Le Puducherry 6-2; Karnataka bt Telangana 13-1; HUTN bt AP 5-4.

Facile win for Karnataka in Vinoo Mankad Trophy

Karnataka defeated Jharkhand by seven wickets in the BCCI under-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy at Hyderabad.

The scores: Jharkhand 104 in 36.2 overs (Vatshal Tiwari 31, Hardik Raj 4/11, Dheeraj Gowda 3/23) lost to Karnataka 105/3 in 24.2 overs (Prakar Chaturvedi 44, Aarav Mahesh 30 n.o.).

Knock, knock... who's there? The World Cup, we are back in Pune

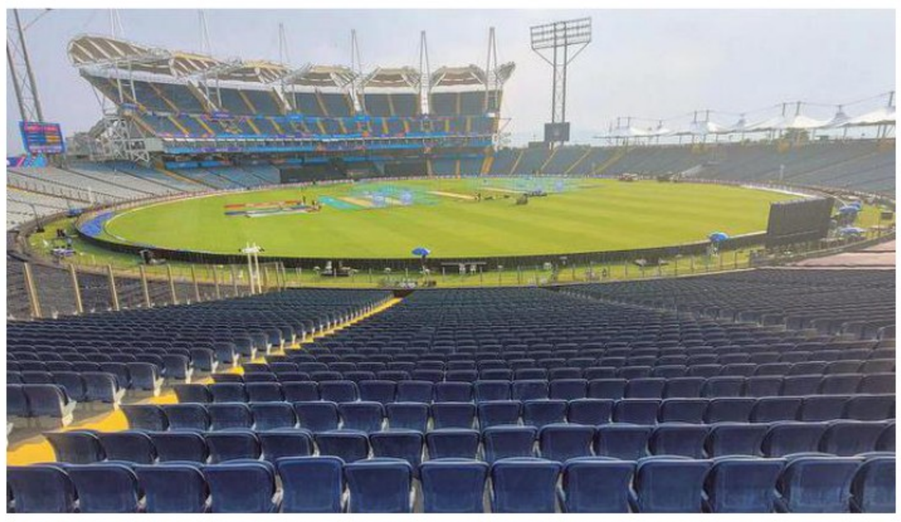
The big-ticket cricket event returns to the city — which has undergone a sea change since it last played host — and Gen Z is ready to lap it up all when India takes on Bangladesh and a further four matches

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

A majority of the 37,500-strong turnout will have to sit in open stands, that too in the October heat, at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium here on Thursday when India takes on Bangladesh in the ICC men's cricket World Cup. But hardly any of them will be complaining. After all, most of them are expected to be Gen Z or Millennials.

Shubham Walunj, an IT professional, is one among them. Walunj – who spent his formative years in Rajgurunagar – a town almost 50kms from Pune before pursuing higher education here – depicts the changing landscape of the city to precision.

From being regarded as the pensioner's paradise, Pune emerged as a student city before transforming into an IT hub over the last two decades. But Walunj – along with a group of friends and colleagues – has taken a day off at work on Thursday.



Picturesque: A view of the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on the eve of the match between India and Bangladesh. K.R. DEEPAK

"Ever since the cricket bug bit, all the elders I have interacted with keep discussing the 1996 World Cup match in Pune, when Kenya beat the mighty West Indies," Walunj, 25, says. "I wasn't even born then but I have heard so many tales of the game. I have to be here to witness when the city that's my home now is hosting its first World Cup match in my lifetime."

Walunj is obviously referring to the famous game that inserted Pune into a cricket World Cup quiz. Playing its maiden World Cup, Kenya stunned the West Indies by 73 runs at the Nehru Stadium – which was the home of cricket in Pune till the current stadium was readied at the beginning of the last decade. Just like non-India World Cup games in 2011 and 2023, even in 1996, there were hardly any spectators for the spectacular upset. Among the 3,500-odd spectators was a group of promising Maharashtra cricketers. Kashinath Khadkikar, the former Maharashtra all-rounder, was among the group.

"We were thrilled to watch Curtly Ambrose steaming in. Only the previous day, we were watching the nets and Ambrose during his warm-up bowled a gentle half-volley to Sherwin Campbell who drove it through covers. Through the remaining session, all that Campbell faced from Ambrose was chin-music," Khadkikar recalls.

"I wish I had stayed on during the chase. But during the formative stage, our group preferred to head back home after the first innings since we wanted to watch Pakistan's big match against South Africa on TV. And then the miracle happened, so it's weird to say I was there at the match but wasn't there when Kenya won."

Starting with the high-profile clash between India and Bangladesh, the next three weeks will witness Gahunje – a village on the city's outskirts off the Mumbai-Pune Expressway – host five World Cup games.

While Thursday is expected to be a sell-out, it will be interesting to see whether Punekars support the World Cup for the remaining games as well.

Delhi books a final-round berth with win over Odisha

SANTOSH TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Delhi downed Odisha by Jaideep Singh's late second-half goal in the concluding round of the Group B preliminary stage matches of the senior National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy at the Pt Mehnga Singh Stadium, Banga (Punjab).

Delhi topped the group with 13 points from four wins and a draw to ensure a ticket to the final round.

Host Punjab beat Haryana 2-0 to collect nine points from five matches and took the second spot in the group nudging Odisha (also on nine points) to the third spot on a better goal average. The 32-time champion Bengal crashed out of the tournament finishing a poor fourth.

The results: Group B: At Banga: Delhi 1 (Jaideep Singh 76) bt Odisha 0; Punjab 2 (Rohit Sheikh 23, Bipul Kala 90+1) bt Haryana 0. **At Phagwara:** Bengal 5 (Sumay Shome 16, Jiten Murmu 43, 59, Bijay Murmu 79, 82) bt Ladakh 0.

BENGALURU DIGEST

Nikhil's 'trick highlights FC Agniputhra big win

Nikhil Raj slammed a hat-trick to power FC Agniputhra past ASC & Centre 7-2 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Wednesday.

The results: FC Bengaluru United 4 (Jaison Jordon 18, Akshunna Tyagi 45, Rayan Wilfred 74, Ashray Bhardwaj 81) bt Rebels FC 1 (Suraj Gurung 75); FC Agniputhra 7 (Nikhil Raj 6, 71, 90, Raj Subba 29, Yadav Rahul 58, Prashath Chettri 74, Lalnunzama 90+3) bt ASC & Centre 2 (Niraj Kumar 39, Suresh Singh 62).

Umadevi triumphs

R. Umadevi emerged as the State ranking senior women's billiards tournament champion here.

The results: R. Umadevi bt Natasha Chethan 77-50, 77-60; P. Keerthana bt Natasha Chethan 75-42, 76-73; R. Umadevi bt P. Keerthana 76-33, 79-60.

Volleyball axed from National Games at the last minute

Stan Rayan

Despite India's volleyball contingent's impressive early run in the recent Asian Games in Hangzhou, where its men stunned former three-time champion South Korea and a higher-ranked Chinese Taipei before finishing sixth, the sport will not be in the National Games which begin in Goa on October 26.

That's because the ad hoc committee – formed by the Indian Olympic Association in mid-June to run volleyball in the country and to conduct the Volleyball Federation of India's elections – feels that since there is not much time available, the selection of the eight teams for the National Games could run into legal complications.

"We are in a situation where we cannot recommend eight teams for the National Games without any dispute happening afterwards. If we select eight teams, we should be able to defend it. That is the problem faced by the ad hoc committee," former international S. Gopinath, a member of IOA's volleyball ad hoc committee, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday while revealing that the sport has been dropped from the National Games.

Catch-22 situation: Gopinath says the ad hoc committee cannot recommend eight teams for the National Games without any dispute happening afterwards. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The (IOA's) norms say the National Games teams should be selected as per the ranking of the last National championships. But the last Nationals were conducted by the unauthorised VFI in February (in Guwahati, winners: Rajasthan men and Kerala women).

"The other option is for the ad hoc committee to conduct a National championship which is out of reach because of time and other constraints.

"We are only a temporary body, a lot has to be done, a lot of money is involved (to hold the Nationals). And the National Games dates have already been announced."

He said the ad hoc committee was busy with the Asian Games for the last few months.

"All were engaged with the Asian Championship and the Asian Games. We have to conduct them (Nationals) only after that. There is no sufficient time.

"The option available were considering the results of the last National Games (Kerala men and women won the National Games titles in Gujarat, October 2022). But the teams which played the last National Games did not qualify as per the Nationals conducted later.

"So, it was advised by wise people that preference should be given to conduct the VFI elections immediately. The ad hoc committee and the GTCC had discussions in this regard."

Though volleyball figures in the National Games schedule, the decision to drop the sport was taken on Tuesday. The ad hoc committee, which had been given a 45-day deadline to conduct the VFI elections, is now in a hurry to conduct them as soon as possible.

"That (deadline) has been extended since the ad hoc committee was busy with selecting and sending the teams for the Asian Games. The elections should happen by the end of this year," said Gopinath.

Prithvi and Naisha swim to individual titles; BAC reigns

DASARA CM CUP

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

M. Prithvi (Basavangudi Aquatic Centre, Bengaluru) with four gold and a silver in the men's section and Naisha Shetty (Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru) with five gold in the women's section won the individual titles on the concluding day of the swimming competition in the Dasara CM Cup 2023 at the Chamundivihar swimming pool here on Wednesday.

Basavangudi Aquatic Centre's swimmers ruled the pool and won a total of 77 medals (30 gold, 29 silver & 18 bronze medals) in the competition.

In tennis, Bengaluru's Sharmada Balu & Sunitha Maruri cruised past Mandya's Kashvi Sunil & Unnathi V.M 6-1, 6-0 to clinch the women's doubles title.

The results:

Swimming (winners only):
Men: 800m freestyle: Sahil Dalal (BAC) 9:19.00s; **200m breaststroke:** J. Daniel Paul (BAC) 2:36.86s; **200m butterfly:** Mathews Koshy (BAC) 2:19.11s; **50m freestyle:** M. Prithvi (BAC) 25.41s; **4x100m relay:** BAC 'A' 4:28.60s; **400m medley:** Sahil (BAC) 5:04.72s; **200m freestyle:** Dhyan Balakrishna (BAC) 2:01.63s; **50m butterfly:** Prithvi (BAC) 26.49s; **50m backstroke:** Dhyan (BAC) 29.75s; **4x100m freestyle relay:** BAC 'A' 3:48.82s. **Women: 800m freestyle:** Aditi N. Mulay (BAC) 9:51.86s; **200m breaststroke:** S. Thanya (Dolphin Aquatics) 2:46.47s; **200m butterfly:** Tanisha Vinay 2:34.39s; **50m freestyle:** Lakshmi T.N. (BAC) 29.59s; **4x100m relay:** BAC 'A' 4:47.80s; **400m medley:** Aditi N. Mulay (BAC) 5:25.75s; **200m freestyle:** Vihitha Nayana (BAC)2:12.96s; **50m butterfly:** Naisha Shetty (Dolphin) 30.63s; **50m backstroke:** Vihitha Nayana (BAC) 32:53s; 4x100m freestyle relay: BAC 'A' 4:17.73s.

Prithvi and Naisha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tennis: Men: Semifinals: Manjunath Prasad (Mys) bt H. Dhanush (Mys) 6-1, 6-1; Shanth Kumar (Blr) bt Shreyanth (Dav) 6-2, 6-3. **Women: Doubles final:** Sharmada Balu & Suhitha Maruri (Blr) bt Kashvi Sunil & Unnathi V M (Man) 6-1, 6-0.

Kabaddi: League: Men: Mysuru bt Bengaluru City 35-31, DK bt Tumkur 31-16, Mandya bt Bagalkot 45-25, Hassan bt Mysuru 39-21.

Women: Bengaluru bt Mysuru 29-15, Chickmaglur bt Gadag 40-34, Belagavi bt Chickmaglur 37-12, DK bt Koppala 40-12, Ramnagar bt Bengaluru City 39-31.

Netball (final): Men: Mysuru bt Dakshina Kannada 42-26; **women:** Bengaluru City bt Dakshina Kannada 43-31.

Handball: Mysuru bt Belagavi 27-21.

Kho-Kho: Men: Bagalkot bt Belgaum 21-18; **women:** Bengaluru bt Bagalkot 11-4.

Hockey: DK bt Bellary 6-0, Kodagu bt Dharwad 7-1, Mysuru bt Hassan 8-0.

SNAPSHOTS

England qualifies after Kane double

LONDON: Harry Kane scored a brace and Marcus Rashford joined him on the scoresheet as England came from behind to beat holders Italy 3-1 and march into the Euro 2024 finals in a Group C qualifier on Tuesday.

The results: Group C: England 3 (Kane 32-pen & 77, Rashford 57) bt Italy 1 (Scammaca 15); Malta 1 (Mbong 12) lost to Ukraine 3 (Camenzuli-og 38, Dovbyk 43-pen, Mudryk 85).

Group G: Serbia 3 (Mitrovic 9, 73, Tadic 77) bt Montenegro 1 (Jovetic 36); Lithuania 2 (Cernych 20, Sirvys 36) drew with Hungary 2 (Szoboszlai 67-pen, Varga 82).

Group H: Finland 1 (Taylor 28) lost to Kazakhstan 2 (Zainutdinov 77-pen & 89); Northern Ireland 0 lost to Slovenia 1 (Gnezda Cerin 5); San Marino 1 (Golinucci 61) lost to Denmark 2 (Hojlund 42, Poulsen 70).

Messi to the fore again

LIMA: Lionel Messi scored two goals as Argentina extended its perfect start to South American qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday with a 2-0 victory over host Peru.

Messi took his international goal tally to 106 as the World champion went to the top of the South American qualifying table with 12 points from four games, five clear of Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela.

Brazil's 2-0 defeat to Uruguay in Montevideo compounded by the sight of Neymar being stretchered off just before half-time with what appeared to be a knee injury.

The results: Venezuela 3 (Soteldo 45+1, Rondon 72, Machis 79) bt Chile 0; Paraguay 1 (Sanabria 69) bt Bolivia 0; Ecuador 0 lost to Colombia 0; Uruguay 2 (Nunez 42, de la Cruz 77) bt Brazil 0; Peru 0 lost to Argentina 2 (Messi 32, 42).

Kane. REUTERS

Star Glory primed to come good in the Mysore District Cup

RACING

MYSURU: Star Glory, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Mysore District Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Oct 19). False rails (width about 6m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 CHIRAPUNJI PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Festive Star (2) B. Dharshan 61, 2. Sky Princess (3) R. Pradeep 60, 2. Akasi (10) Inayat 59.5, 4. Code Of Honour (6) Ram Nandan 58, 5. Ironic Humour (1) Angad 56.5, 6. Swiss Tigress (5) Kiran Rai 56.5, 7. He's The One (7) G. Vivek 55.5, 8. Armament (9) Gautam Raj 54.5, 9. Perfect Halo (8) M. Rajesh K 54 and 10. Star Citizen (4) Hindu S 51.5.
1. AKASI, 2. CODE OF HONOUR, 3. STAR CITIZEN

2 AUTUMN BLUE PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Apollo Light (10) P. Surya 62.5, 2. Rich Strike (7) Rayan 62, 3. Shooting Venus (11) S. John 62, 4. Dawn Rising (3) Tousif 61.5, 5. Lucky Sun (2) Faiz 60, 6. D Golden Cup (5) Koshi K 58.5, 7. Bellissimo (4) M. Naveen 58, 8. Sweeter Than Honey (9) S. Qureshi 57.5, 9. D Admiral (8) T. Pavan 56.5, 10. The Intruder (6) R. Pradeep 56.5, 11. Romantic Heart (1) Prabhu K 54 and 12. Masters Mind (12) A. Baandal 51.
1. BELLISSIMO, 2. THE INTRUDER, 3. DAWN RISING

3 SRI KANTEERAVA NARASIMHARAJA SPORTS CLUB TROPHY (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Czarevitch (12) Gautam Raj 62.5, 2. D Roman Power (3) Koshi K 60.5, 3. Flamingo Dancer (8) S. John 60.5, 4. Natural Gold (2) Inayat 60, 5. My Life My Rules (1) H. Rahul 57.5, 6. Parker (7) Srinath 57.5, 7. Udukai (11) A.K. Aniket 57.5, 8. Coyote Girl (13) Shezad Khan 56.5, 9. Vijaya Sarathi (6) M. Rajesh K 54.5, 10. Polar Wind (10) Salman Khan 53.5, 11. Vandan (9) S. Shareef 52, 12. Great Hope (4) L.A. Rozario 51.5 and 13. Deemed To Fire (5) Angad 50.5.
1. PARKAR, 2. DEEMED TO FIRE, 3. GREAT HOPE

4 K.THAMMANNA GOWDA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1 Court Jester (3) Faiz 62.5, 2. Eddie The Eagle (10) Inayat 61, 3. Brave Trooper (9) A.K. Aniket 57.5, 4. Black Coffee (5) R. Pradeep 55.5, 5. Indian Glory (2) Abhishek Mhatre 55, 6. Rising Sun (7) Kiran Rai 55, 7. Minx (4) Prabhu K 54, 8. Jabbar (1) Madhu Sudhan 53.5, 9. Power Of Thea (6) Koshi K 53 and 10. What Is This (8) M. Rajesh K 51.5.
1. BRAVE TROOPER, 2. BLACK COFFEE, 3. EDDIE THE EAGLE

5 MYSORE DISTRICT CUP (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Segera (4) Angad 60, 2. Havelock Cruise (3) Antony 58, 3. Star Glory (6) Suraj 57, 4. Prince Corporate (5) A.K. Aniket 55, 5. Peyo (2) Salman Khan 53.5 and 6. Ravishing Form (1) S. Saqlain 53.5.
1. STAR GLORY, . RAVISHING FORM

6 ALEKONA TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Four Wheel Drive (6) Inayat 62.5, 2. Lucky Point (3) Salman Khan 62.5, 3. Super Gladiator (8) Chethan K 62.5, 4. Catalina (9) J. Paswan 62, 5. Mystical Merkabah (4) Angad 62, 6. Peluche (12) A. Ramu 62, 7. Queen Regnant (1) Darshan 62, 8. Southern Power (11) Srinath 61, 9. D Lord (7) S. Brahmmesh 60.5, 10. Ombudsman (10) Vinod Shinde 60, 11. Break Away (13) Shezad Khan 59, 12. Sea Blush (2) Hindu S 59 and 13. Article Fifteen (5) A. Baandal 58.5.
1. SEA BLUSH, 2. FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, 3. SUPER GLADIATOR

7 ALEKONA TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Embosom (3) Vinod Shinde 60, 2. Mr Humble (11) T. Pavan 59, 3. Antilope (9) Samundra S 58, 4. Sekhmet (12) Hindu S 57, 5. Solo Prince (2) Darshan 55.5, 6. Chilly Breeze (6) Brijesh K 55, 7. Eco Friendly (13) A. Ramu 55, 8. Sacred Creator (1) Kiran Rai 55, 9. Percivale (8) Jagadeesh 54.5, 10. Star Azeem (7) Koshi K 54.5, 11. War Song (10) M. Rajesh K 54.5, 12. Cinco De Mayo (4) G. Vivek 53.5 and 13. Super Sexy (5) Abhishek Mhatre 53.
1. CINCO DE MAYO, 2. SOLO PRINCE, 3. SEKHMET
Day's best: **STAR GLORY**
Double: **BRAVE TROOPER – CINCO DE MAYO**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i); 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Denmark Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 p.m.

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

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